

MARVEL
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EXILES[®] ANNUAL



-RANEY-

EXILES

ANNUAL

Parallel universes. Alternate realities. Some are like the world we know, others completely different. And a few tragic realities are damaged, twisted and downright dangerous. That's where you'll find the EXILES-- a team of mutants who repair the broken links in the chains of time, restoring the cosmic balance.

Plucked from their own separate realities, Blink, Mimic, T-Bird, Nocturne, Morph, and Magnus were forced by the mysterious Timebroker to undertake impossible missions, risking their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. Sometimes these missions called for the ultimate sacrifice, and several Exiles fell in battle, only to be replaced by other unwilling heroes.

Eventually, they turned the tables and took over the Crystal Palace – an observatory outside space and time overlooking the countless realities in the Multiverse. They found out their missions were actually assigned to them by a group of insectoid alien scientists. The “Timebroker” was no more than a false persona they hid behind, like an ordinary man pretending to be the Great and Powerful Oz.

The Exiles remain dedicated to saving universes on the brink of disaster, but triumph and tragedy have shaped them into a very different team than the original six mutants who found themselves “unhinged from Time.” Currently, the team includes Blink, Sabretooth, Longshot, Spider-Man 2099, Morph, and Power Princess. Heather Hudson operates their Mission Control center, where alien computers and view screens observe countless worlds in crisis, and one particular mystery is about to shake them to the core...

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⊗ EARTH #33629

DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN:
WHERE FOUR RUTHLESS MEN
WITH GODLIKE POWERS ARE
TIRED OF BEING IGNORED.

THAT'S RIGHT,
PEOPLE--BLAME
THE MAYOR!

HE HAD HIS
CHANCE TA PAY
US OFF, AN' HE
SAID NO!

NOW
YOU'RE ALL
GONNA
DIE!

THE WRECKING CREW:
SMALL-TIME CROOKS
MYSTICALLY TRANSFORMED
INTO AN UNSTOPPABLE
DESTRUCTIVE FORCE.

THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK CITY:
ONCE AGAIN REMINDED WHY THEY
HAVE THE HIGHEST INSURANCE
RATES IN THE WORLD.

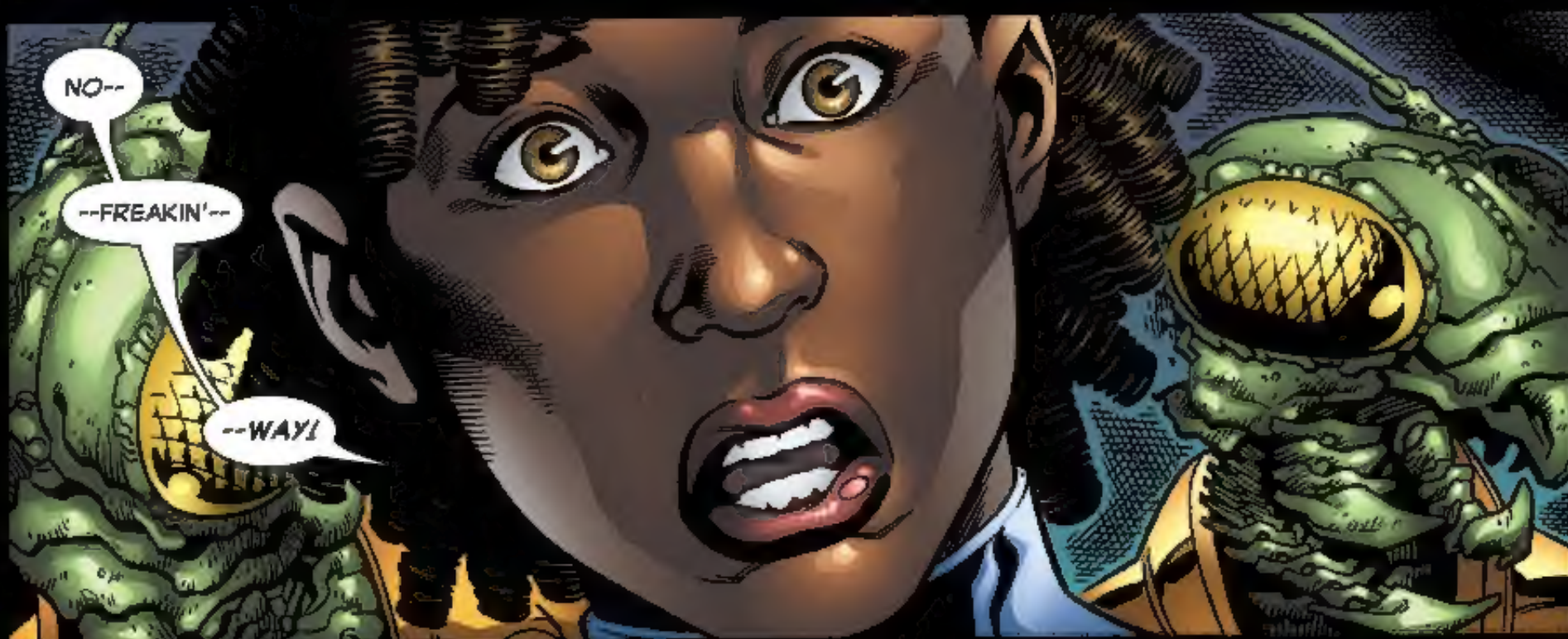


HI,
BLINK.

THESE
DIRTBAGS
GIVING YOU
A HARD
TIME?

RULES OF THE GAME





⊗ THE PANOPTICHRON
A.K.A. THE CRYSTAL PALACE
OUTSIDE SPACE & TIME

⊗ 27 SECONDS LATER...

ALL RIGHT, HEATHER, WHAT'S TODAY'S FIVE-ALARM EMERGENCY?

I WAS CHECKING ON SOME ENDANGERED REALITIES, TRYING TO PRIORITIZE OUR UPCOMING MISSIONS...



...WHEN I FOUND THESE GUYS ON EARTH THREE-THREE-SIX-TWO-NINE!



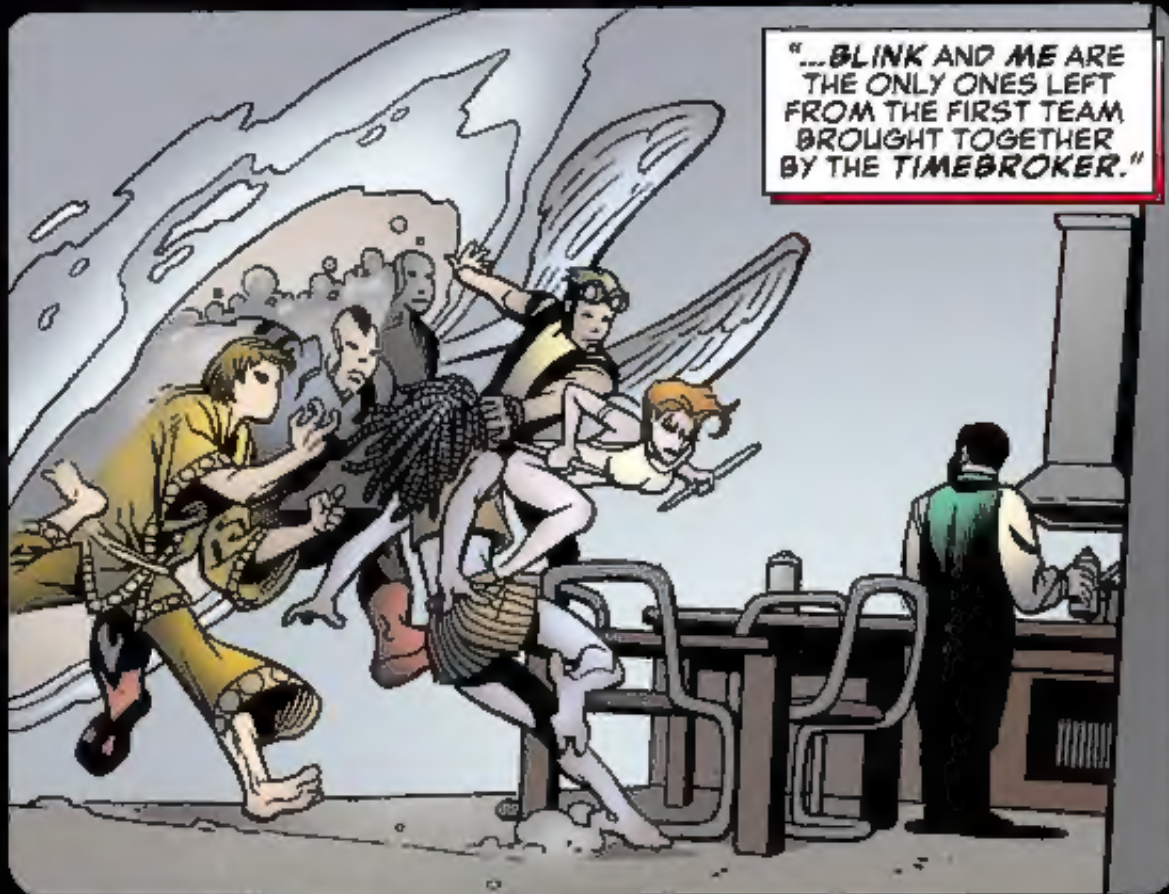
IF THIS IS A JOKE, IT AIN'T FUNNY.

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, MORPH. IS SOMETHING WRONG?

LONGSHOT, MY FRIEND, THAT'S THE ORIGINAL EXILES UP THERE...



"...BLINK AND WE ARE THE ONLY ONES LEFT FROM THE FIRST TEAM BROUGHT TOGETHER BY THE TIMEBROKER."



EXCEPT THE TIMEBROKER TURNED OUT TO BE A FAKE.

IT WAS ALL A TRICK COOKED UP BY THE SMART-BUGS SO WE'D FIX THE DAMAGE THEY DID TO THE MULTI-VERSE.

HOW MANY TIMINGS CAN WE SAY WE ARE SORRY?



SO WHAT'S THE CHANCES THE SAME GROUP'A FOLKS, WITH THE SAME UNIFORMS NO LESS, TEAMED UP ON SOME OTHER EARTH?

THERE ARE TRILLIONS OF UNIVERSES OUT THERE, SABRE-TOOTH. I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT ON TOP OF IT ALL, TO CALL THEMSELVES "EXILES"...?

SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY NOT KOSHER HERE.

MAYBE WE'RE JUST SEEING AN ECHO OF ONE OF YOUR FIRST MISSIONS. SOMETIMES A GRAVITY LENS CAN DISTORT ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMEN--

NO, SPIDER-MAN. THIS NEVER HAPPENED.

SEE THAT GUY IN RED? THAT'S MAGNUS.

HE DIED ON OUR FIRST MISSION. WE NEVER FOUGHT THE WRECKING CREW.

SO IT'S A COSMIC COINCIDENCE. SO WHAT? ARE WE SUPPOSED TO REPAIR THAT REALITY OR NOT?

HOW ABOUT IT, HEATHER?

THAT'S JUST IT, BLINK...

"...THE WRECKING CREW WOULD'VE KILLED THE UNITED NATIONS TODAY, AND TOUCHED OFF WORLD WAR THREE.

"STOPPING THEM WAS OUR JOB."



⊗ EARTH #33629
THE ATLANTIC

YOU GOT
NO RIGHT
TO KEEP US
HERE!

WHO ARE YA
PEOPLE, ANYWAY?!
I DON'T SEE NO
BADGES!

YOU WON'T BE
SEEING DAYLIGHT
AGAIN, EITHER, PAL,
SO MAKE YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE.



I'M AN
AMERICAN
CITIZEN! I
DEMAND A
LAWYER!

THEY ALWAYS
GO ALL A.C.L.U.
ONCE WE BRING
'EM IN.

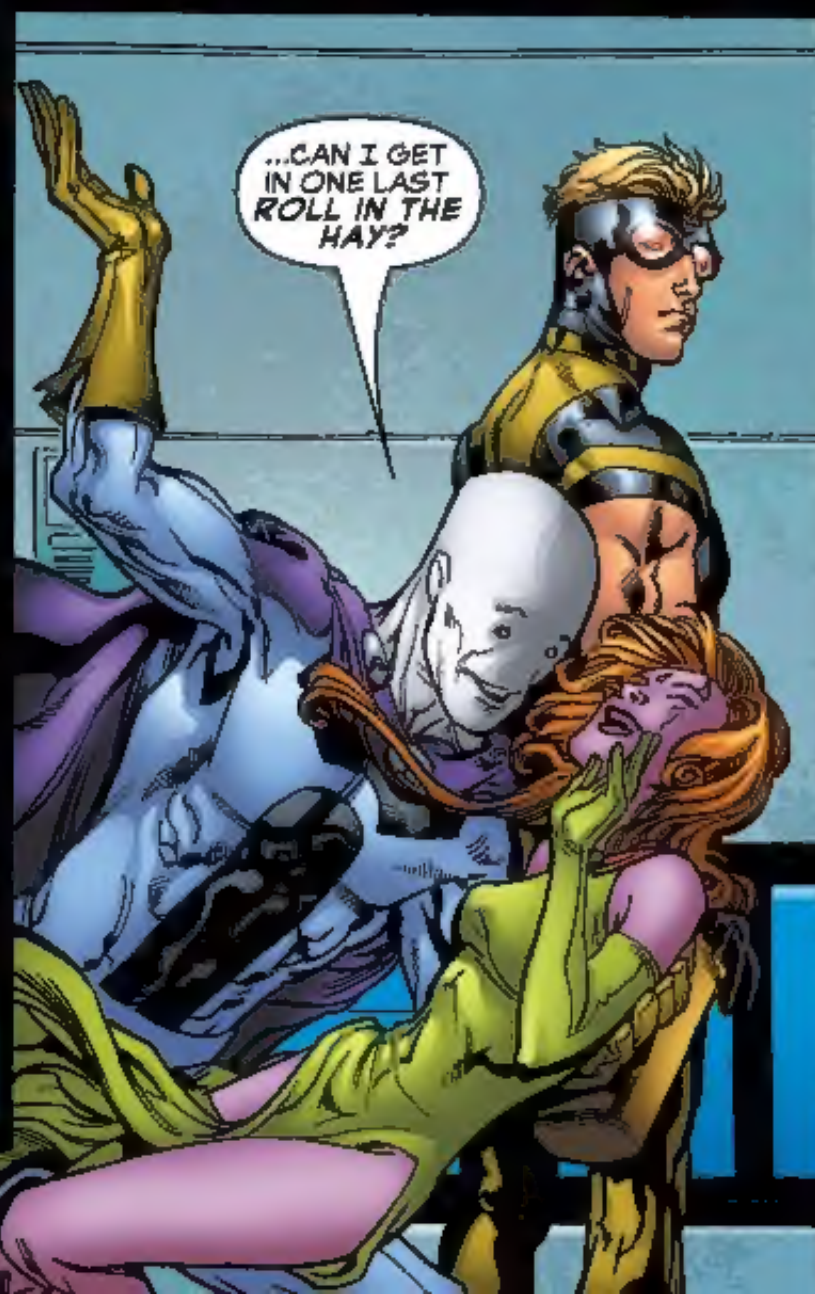
MAYBE
'CAUSE THEY
REALIZE THEY'RE
SCREWED.



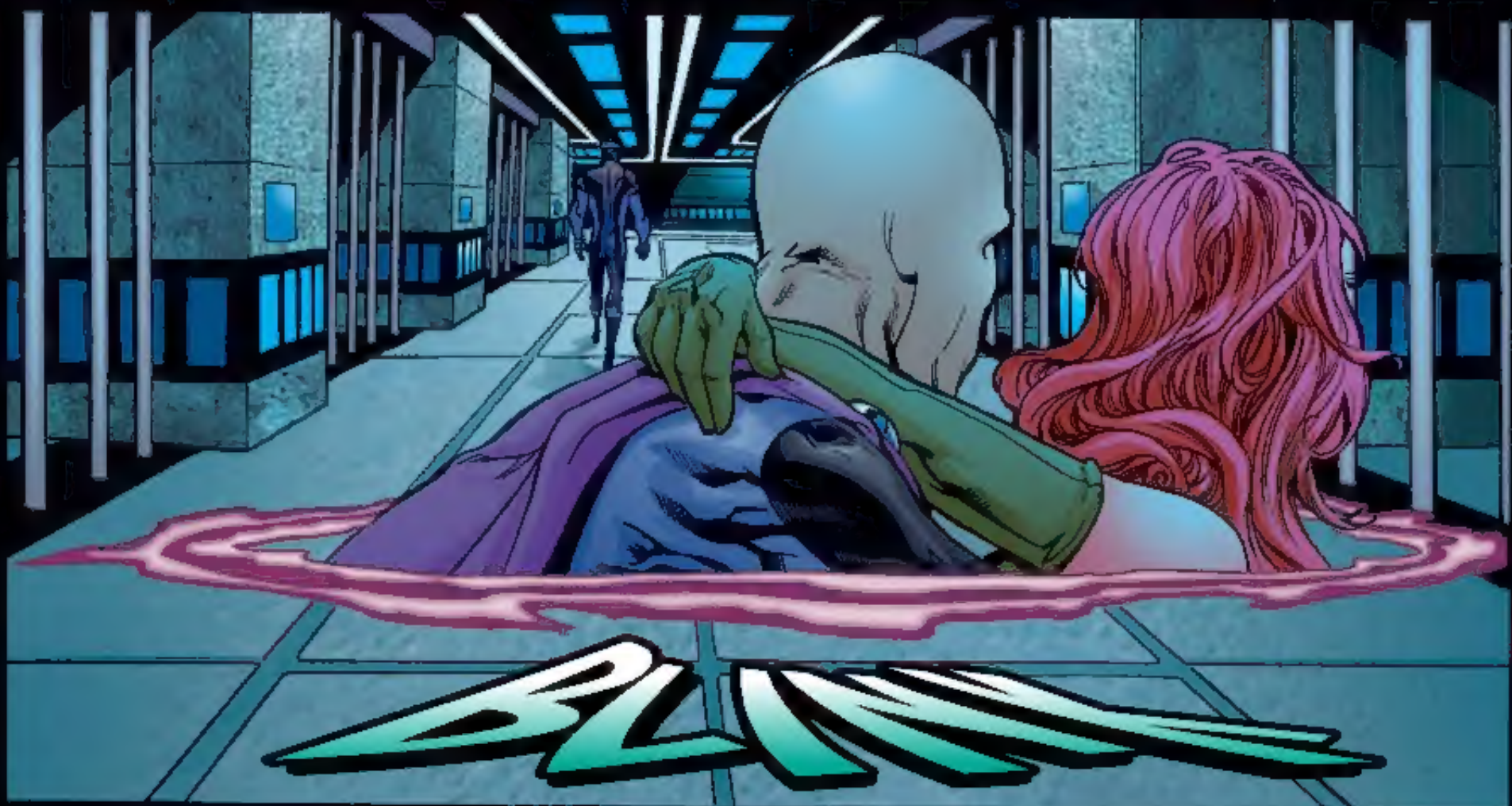
IT DOES BEG
THE QUESTION:
ARE WE JUST
SUPPOSED TO
KEEP THEM HERE
FOREVER?

YOU'D HAVE TO
ASK YOU-KNOW-
WHO, BLINK.

AND BEFORE
YOU DO SOMETHING
THAT FOOLISH...



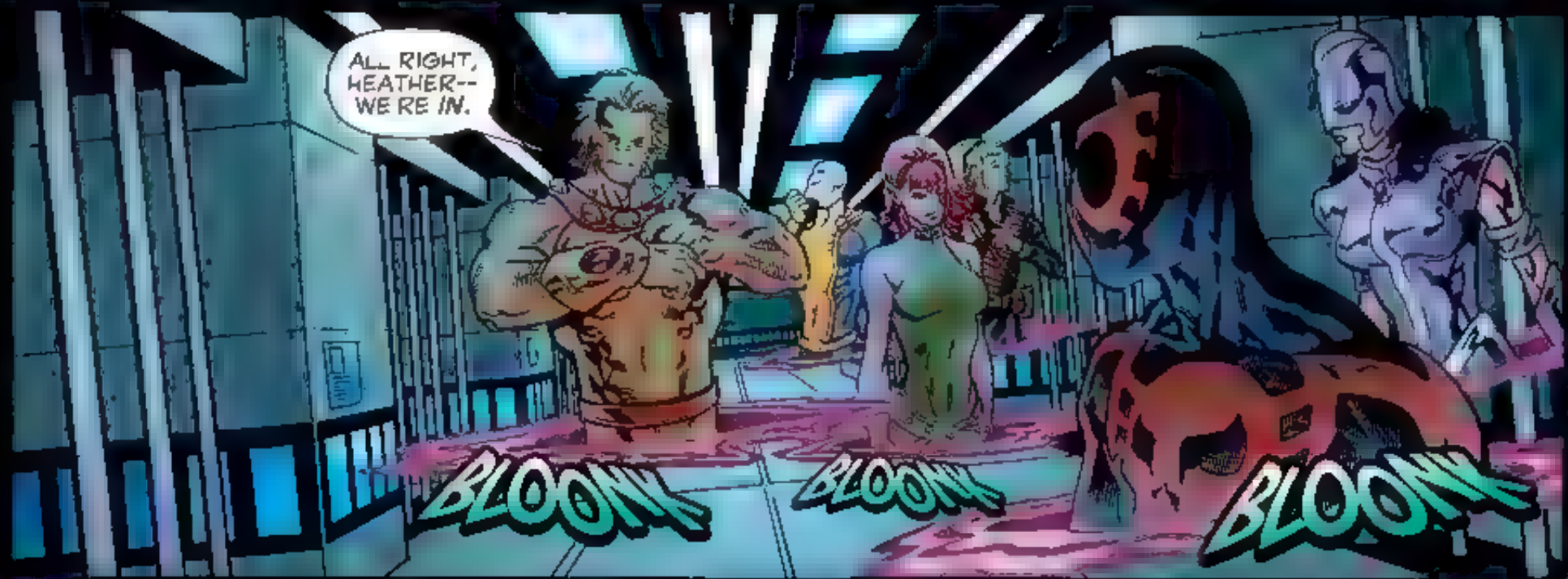
...CAN I GET
IN ONE LAST
ROLL IN THE
HAY?





HELLO...?

DON'T
I AT LEAST
GET A PHONE
CALL?

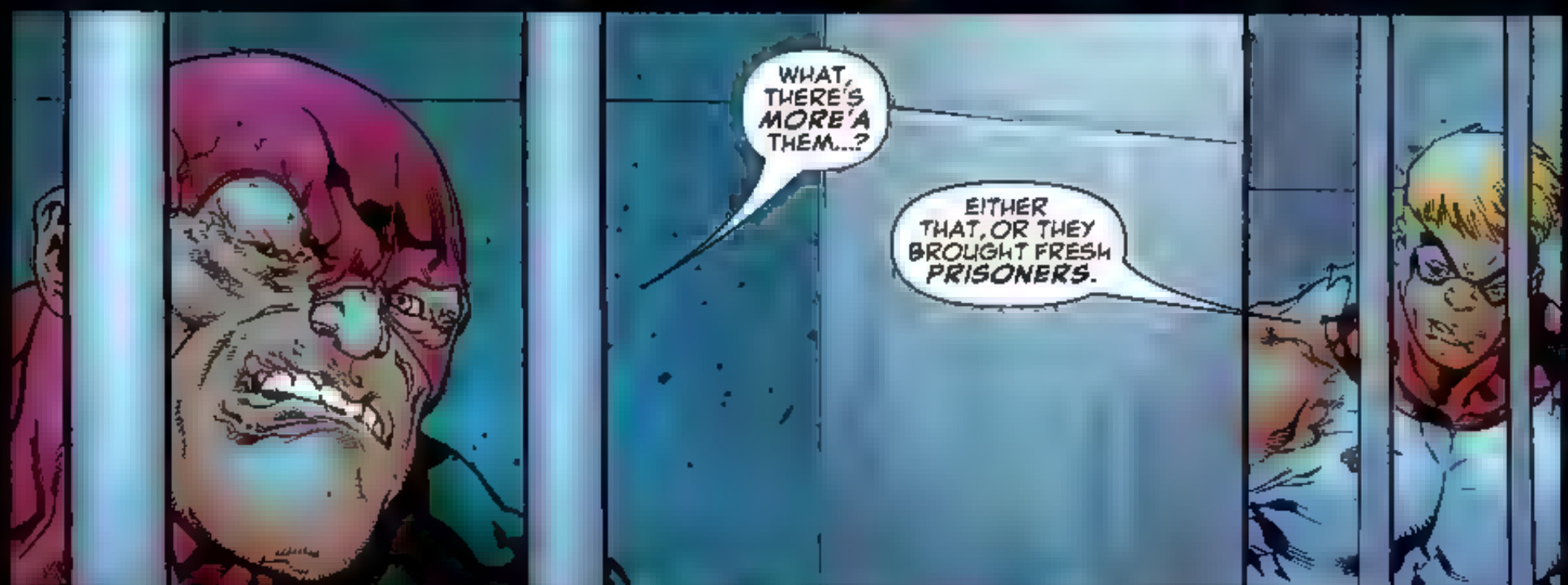


ALL RIGHT,
HEATHER--
WE'RE IN.

BLOOM

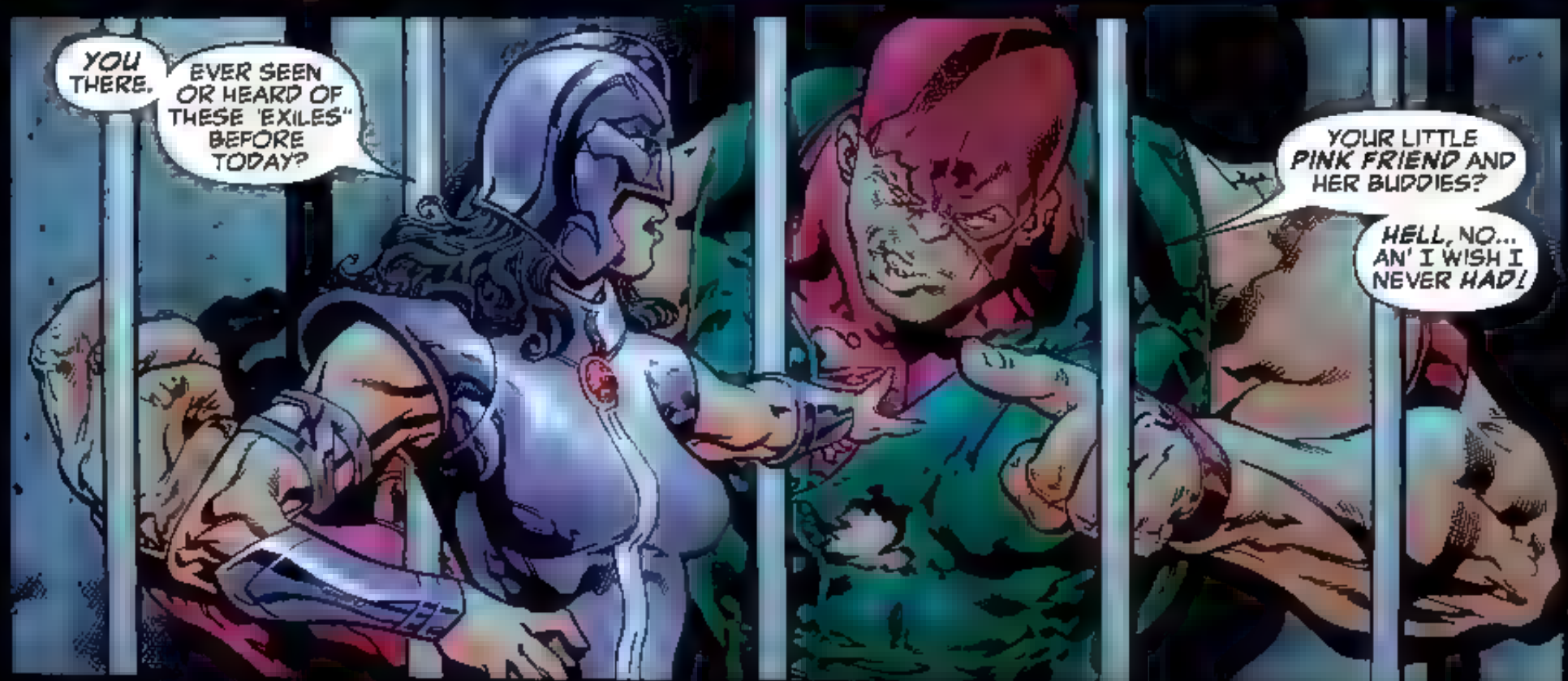
BLOOM

BLOOM



WHAT,
THERE'S
MORE'A
THEM...?

EITHER
THAT, OR THEY
BROUGHT FRESH
PRISONERS.

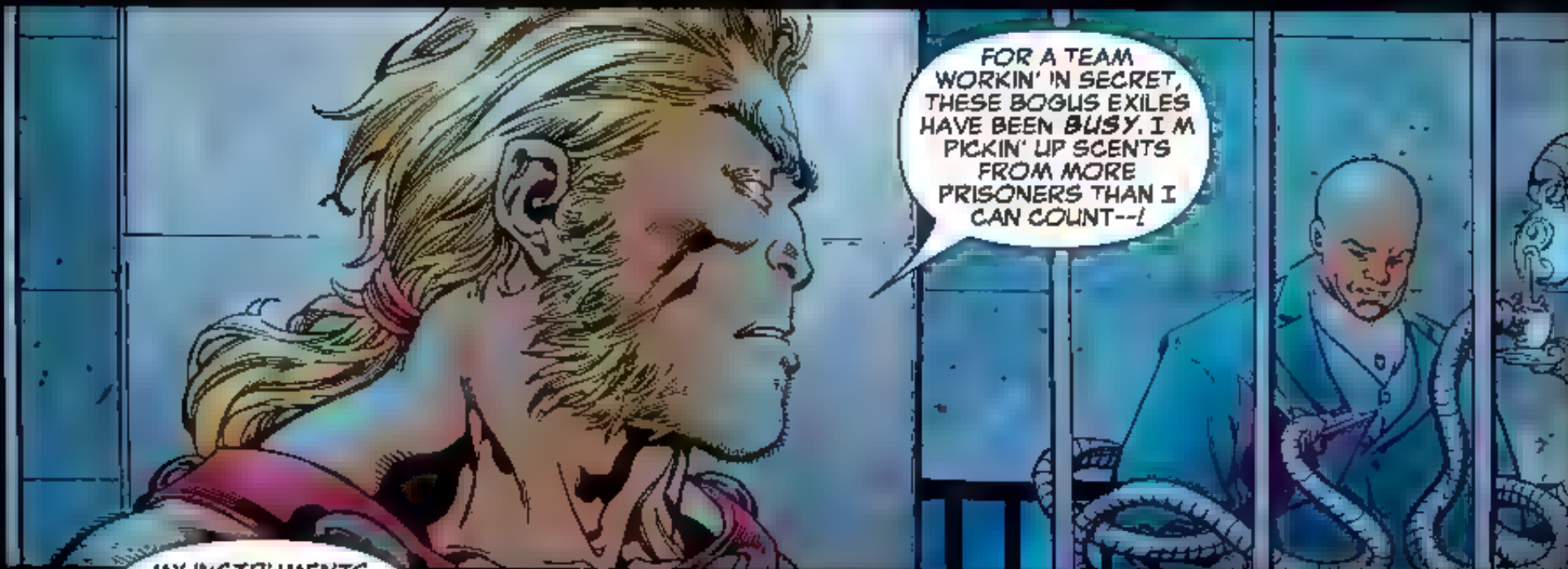


YOU
THERE.

EVER SEEN
OR HEARD OF
THESE 'EXILES'
BEFORE
TODAY?

YOUR LITTLE
PINK FRIEND AND
HER BUDDIES?

HELL, NO...
AN' I WISH I
NEVER HAD!

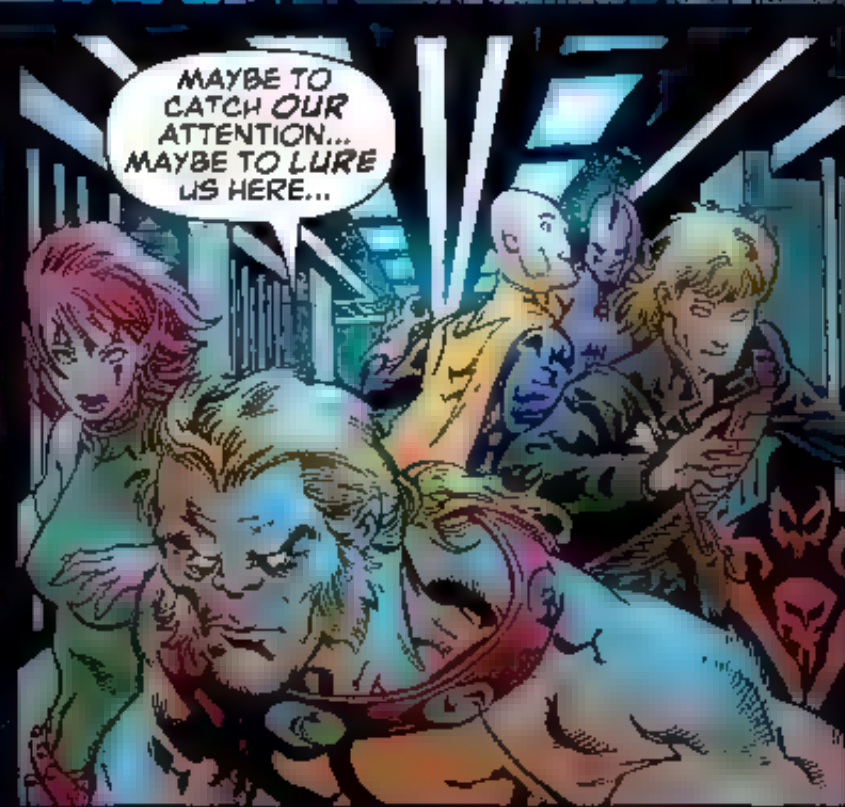


FOR A TEAM
WORKIN' IN SECRET,
THESE BOGUS EXILES
HAVE BEEN *BUSY*. I'M
PICKIN' UP SCENTS
FROM MORE
PRISONERS THAN I
CAN COUNT--!



MY INSTRUMENTS
SAY THEY STOP A NEW
THREAT TO THIS REALITY
EVERY WEEK--! THAT'S
WAY TOO OFTEN TO
BE HAPPENING BY
CHANCE.

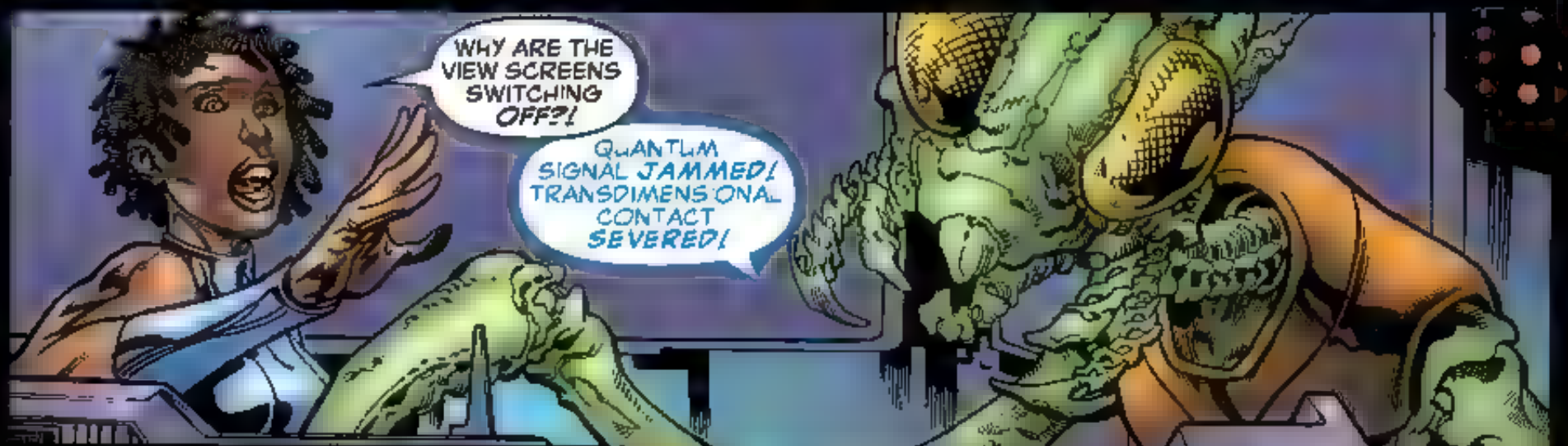
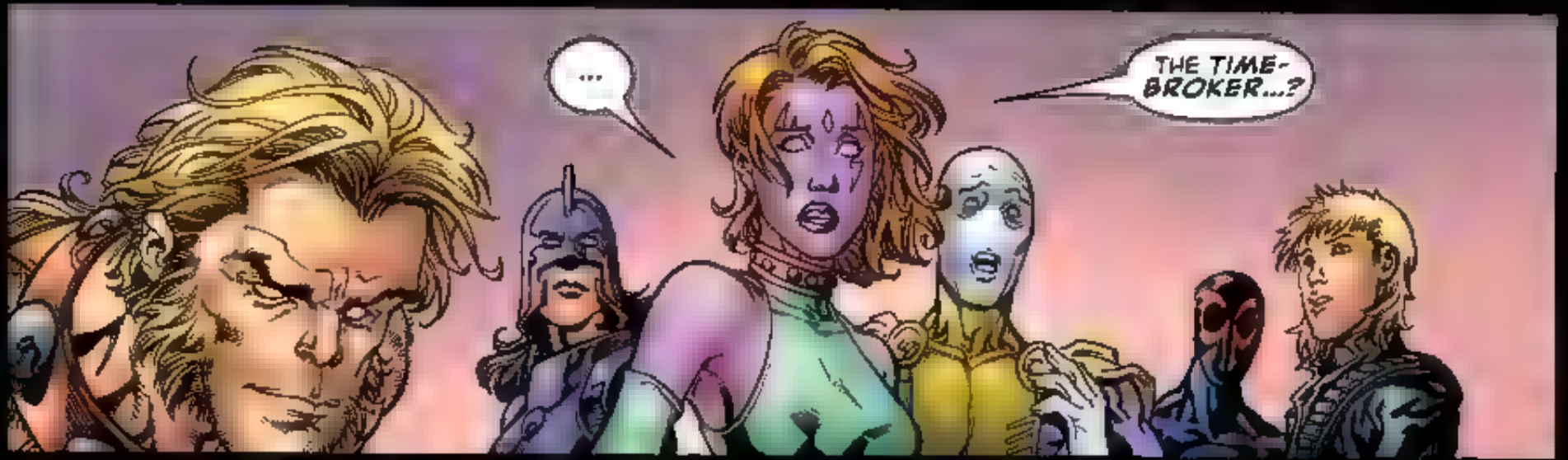
BUT IF SOMEONE
IS ORCHESTRATING
A WEEKLY GLOBAL
CRISIS, WHO COULD BE
POWERFUL ENOUGH?
AND WHY GO TO THE
TROUBLE?



MAYBE TO
CATCH OUR
ATTENTION...
MAYBE TO LURE
US HERE...



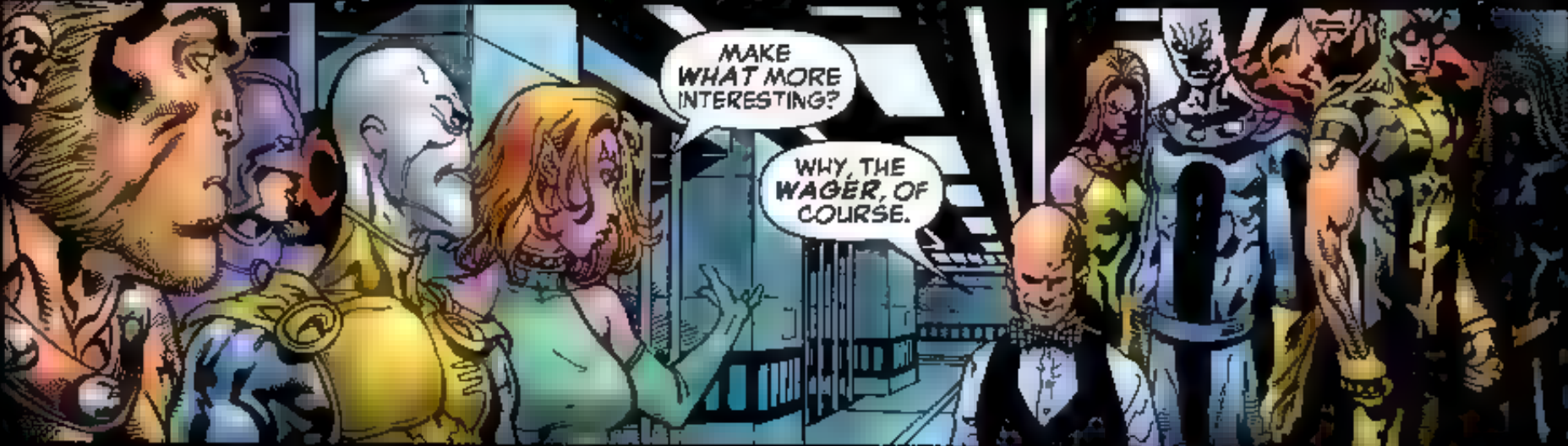
YOU'RE
SMARTER
THAN YOU LOOK,
SABRETOOTH





I SEE
YOU'VE MADE SOME
SUBSTITUTIONS TO
YOUR LINEUP...BUT NO
APPARENT IMPROVE-
MENTS.

FAIR ENOUGH.
IT SHOULD ACTUALLY
MAKE THIS MORE
INTERESTING.



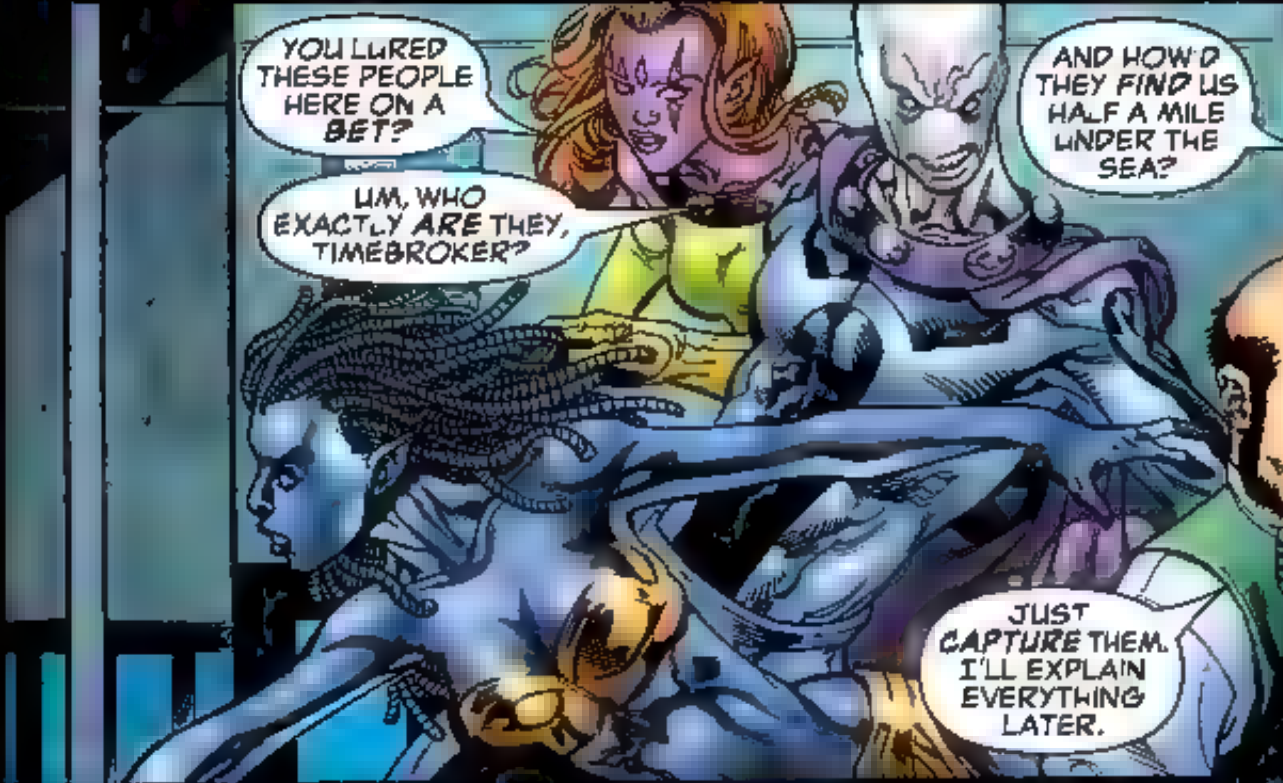
MAKE
WHAT MORE
INTERESTING?

WHY, THE
WAGER, OF
COURSE.



THE TERMS ARE
SIMPLE: PREVAIL IN
COMBAT AGAINST
MY EXILES, AND YOU
GO FREE.

FAIL, AND I WIN
CONTROL OF YOUR
DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL
APPARATUS. YOU
WILL, THEREAFTER,
SERVE ME.

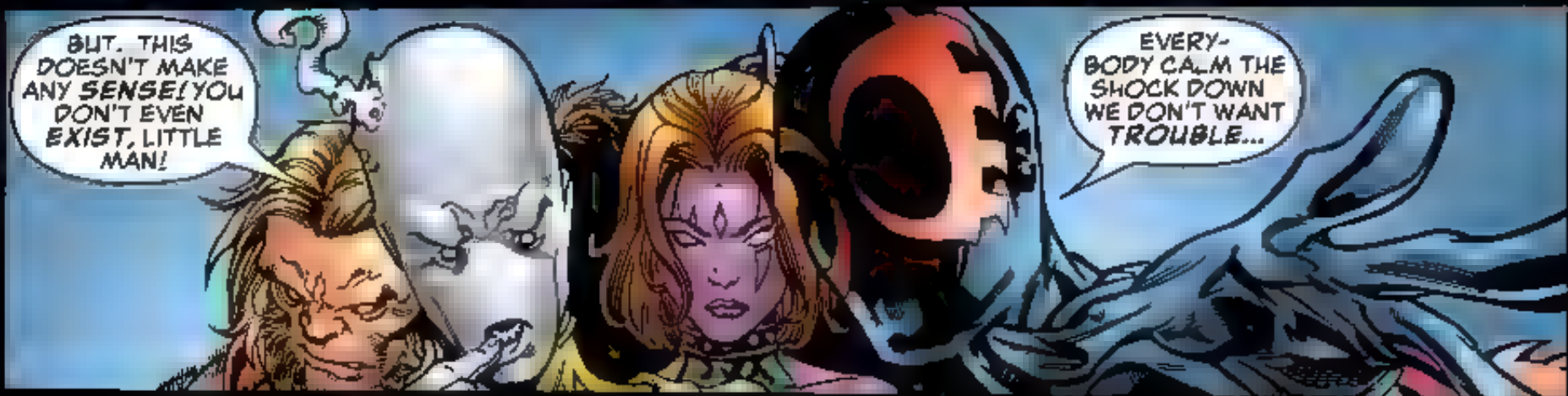


YOU LURED
THESE PEOPLE
HERE ON A
BET?

UM, WHO
EXACTLY ARE THEY,
TIMEBROKER?

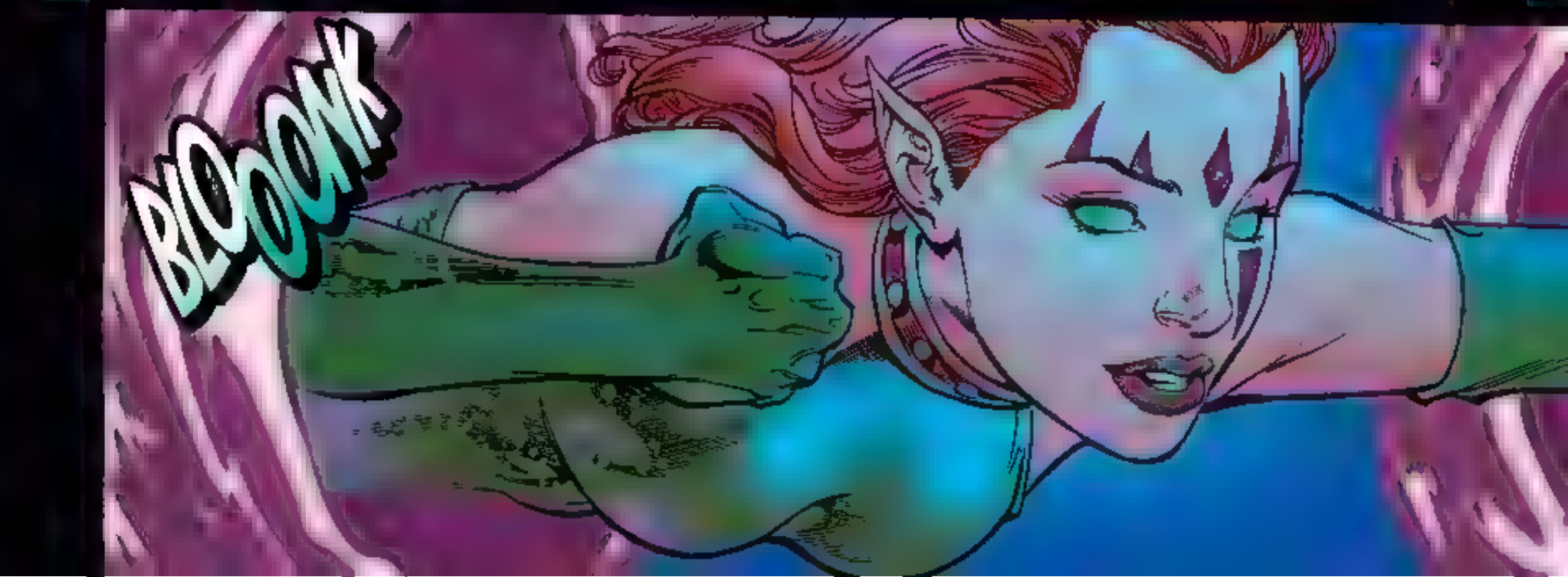
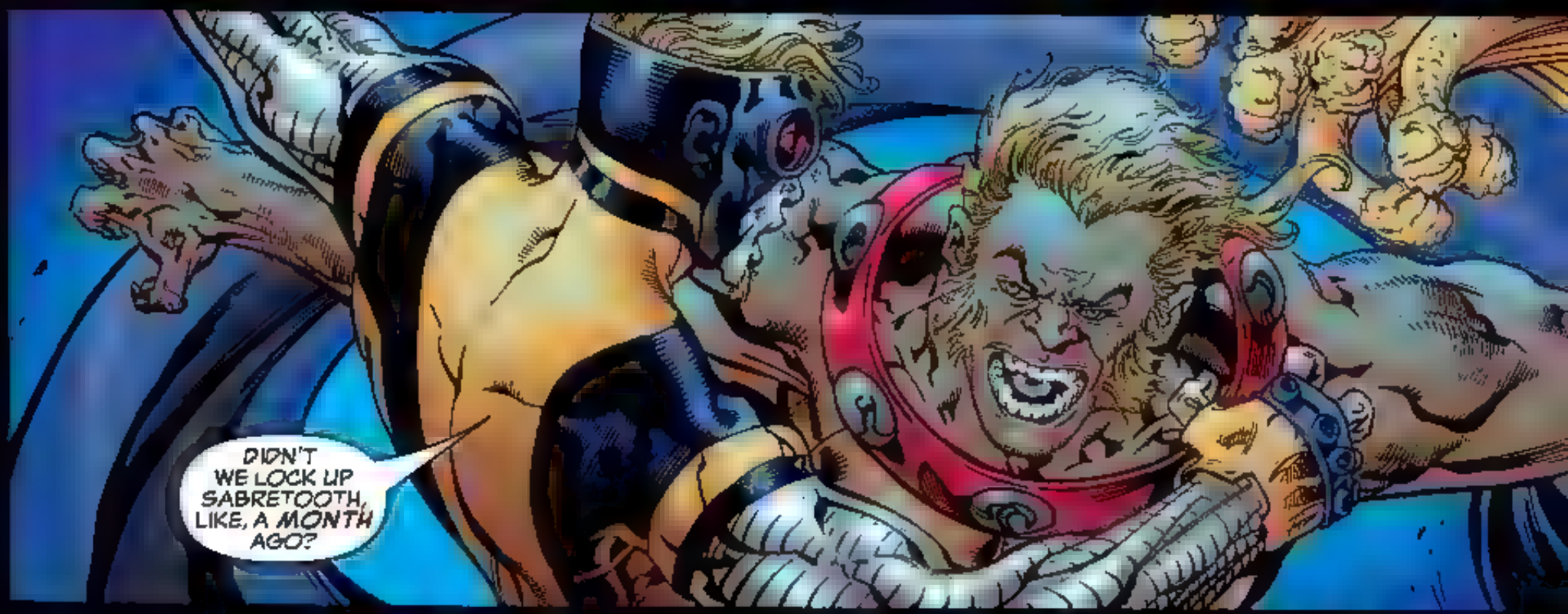
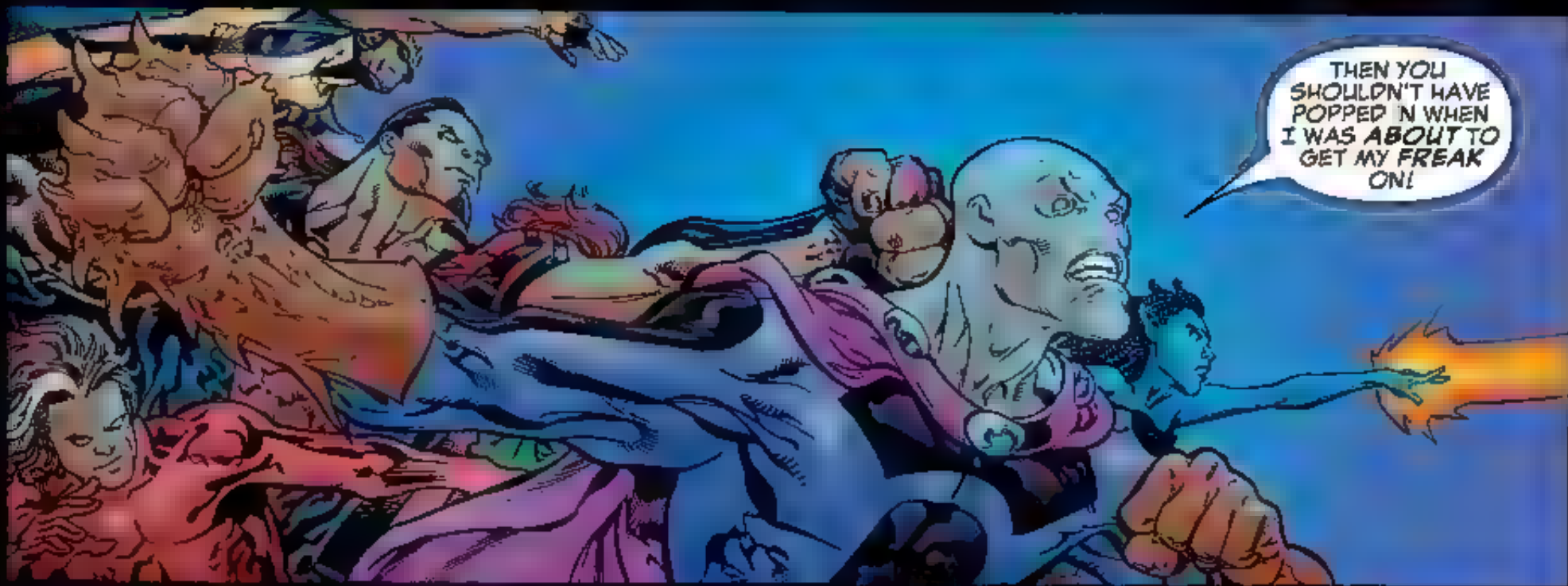
AND HOW'D
THEY FIND US
HALF A MILE
UNDER THE
SEA?

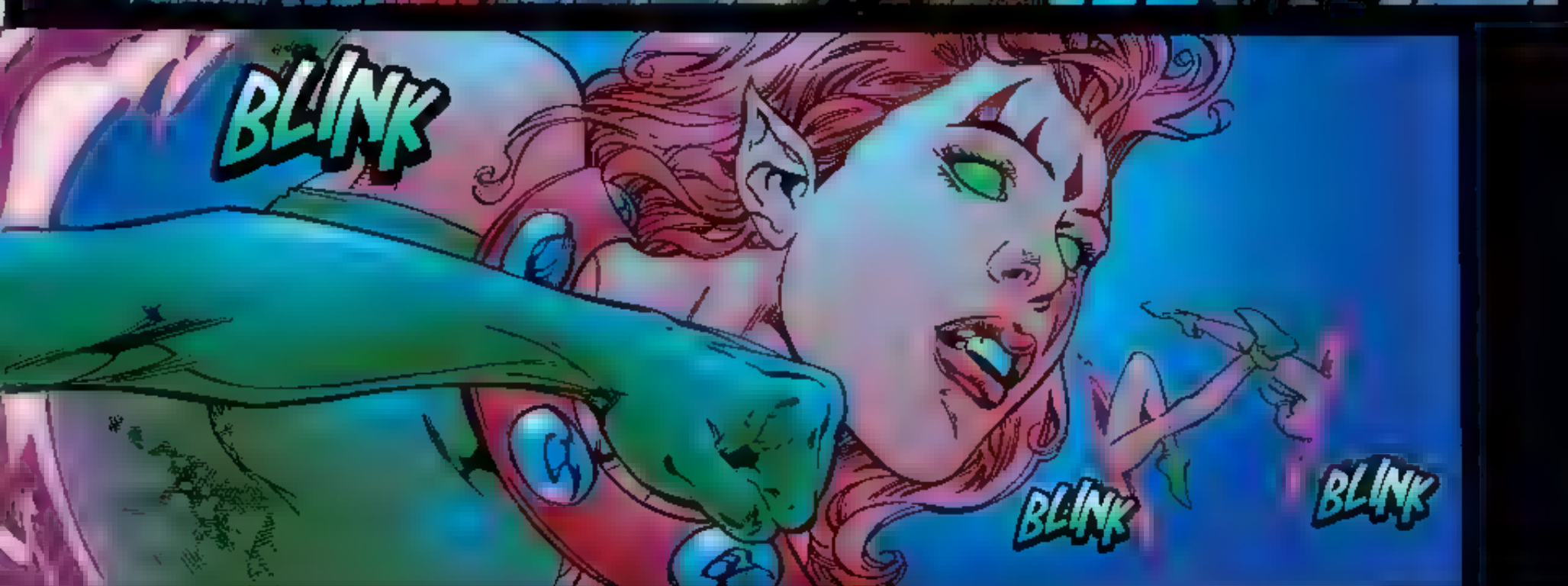
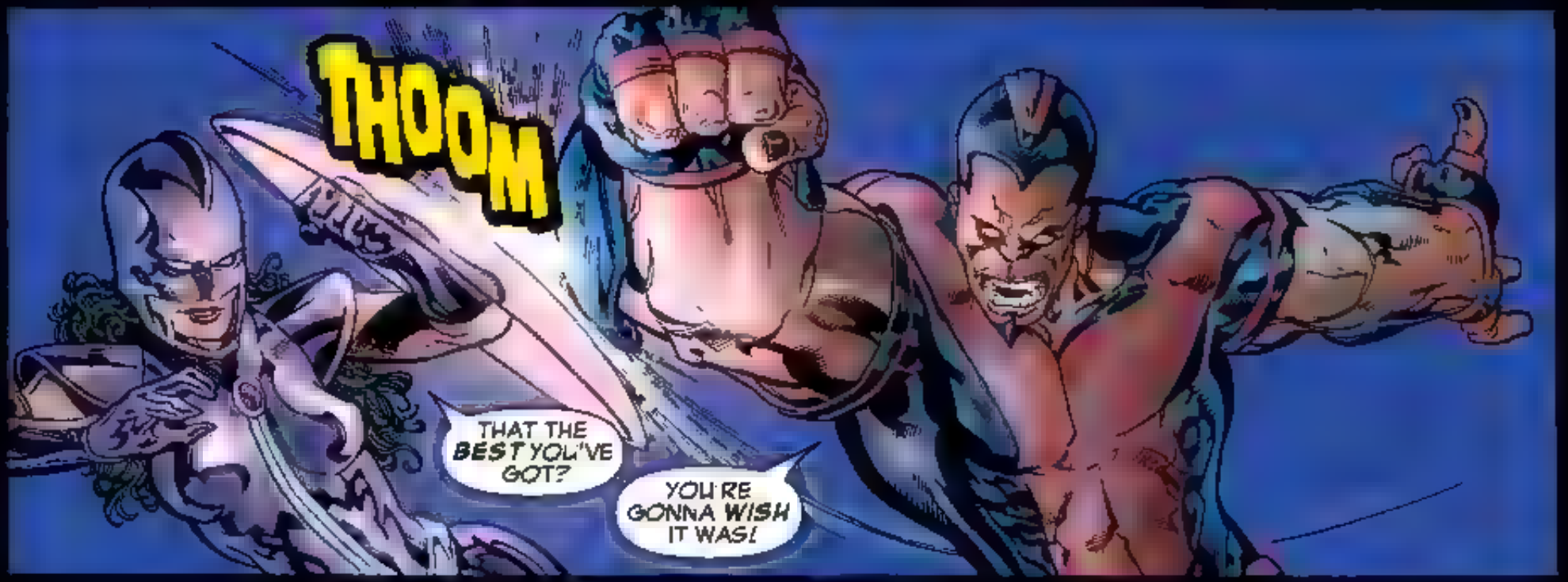
JUST
CAPTURE THEM.
I'LL EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
LATER.

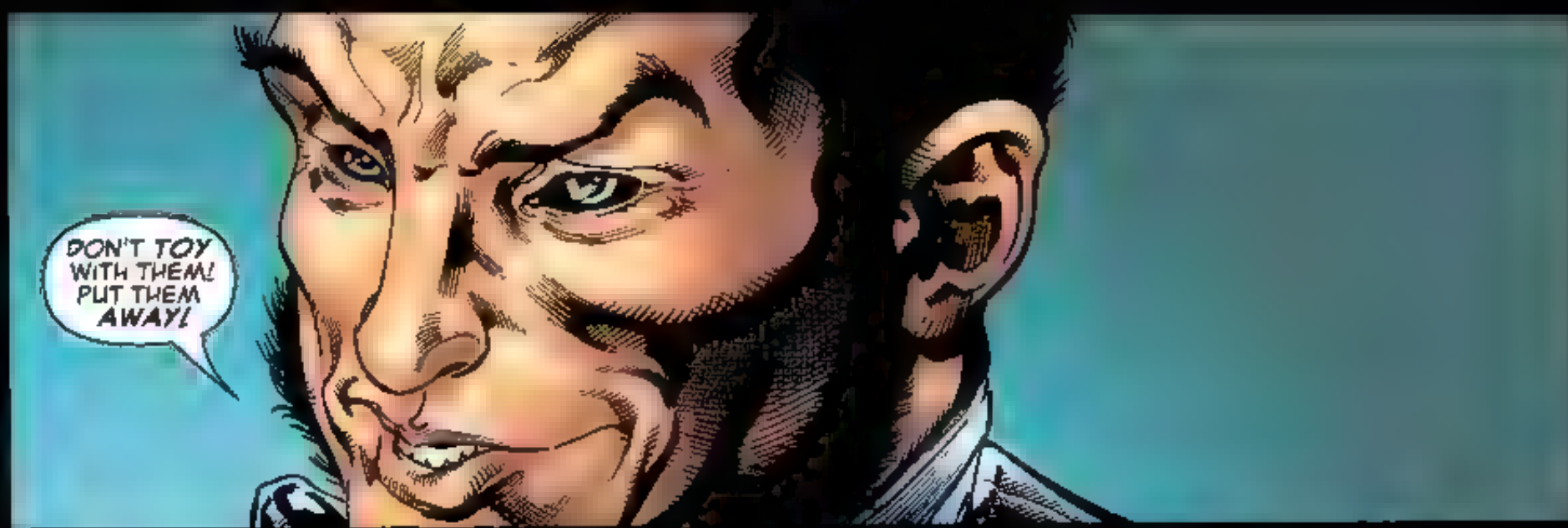


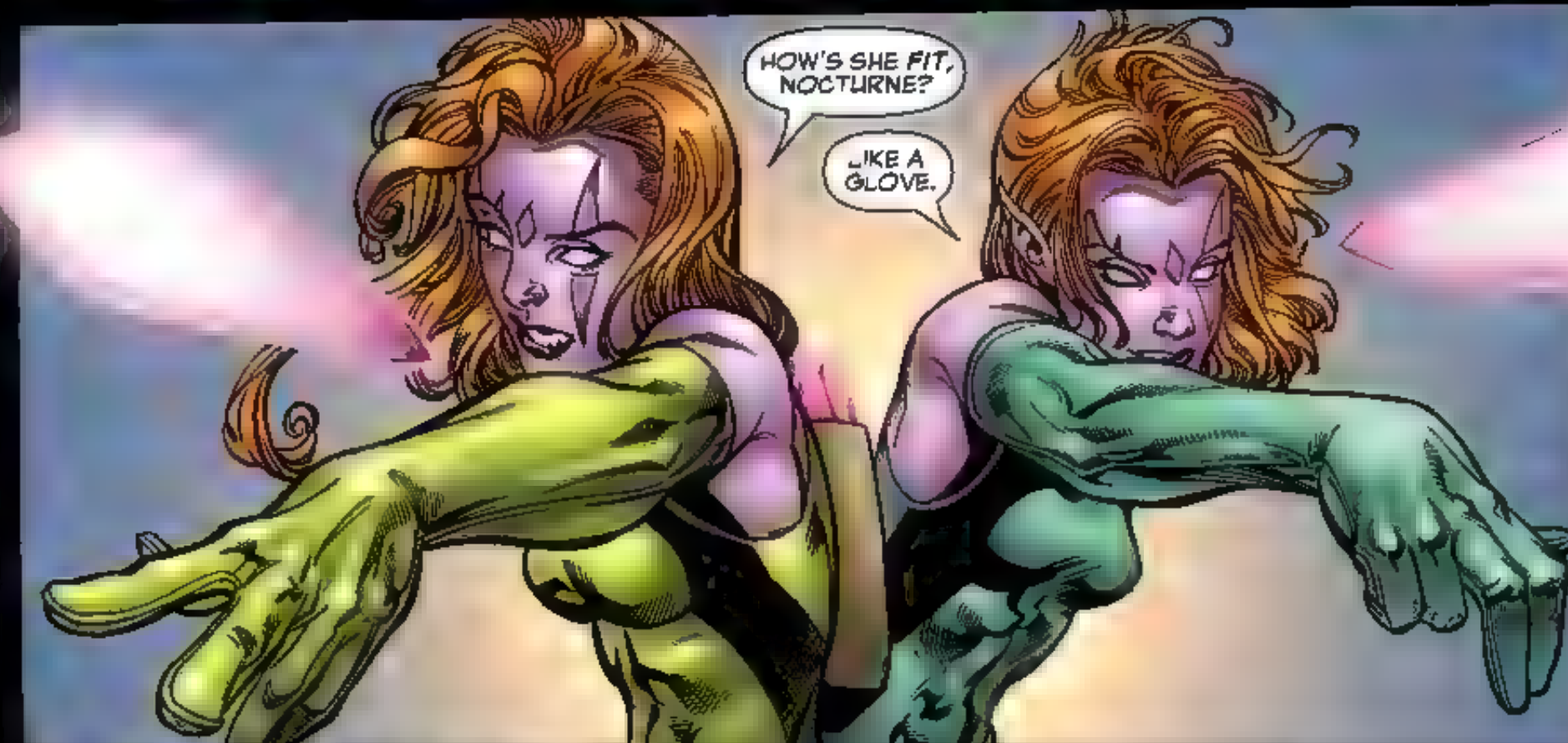
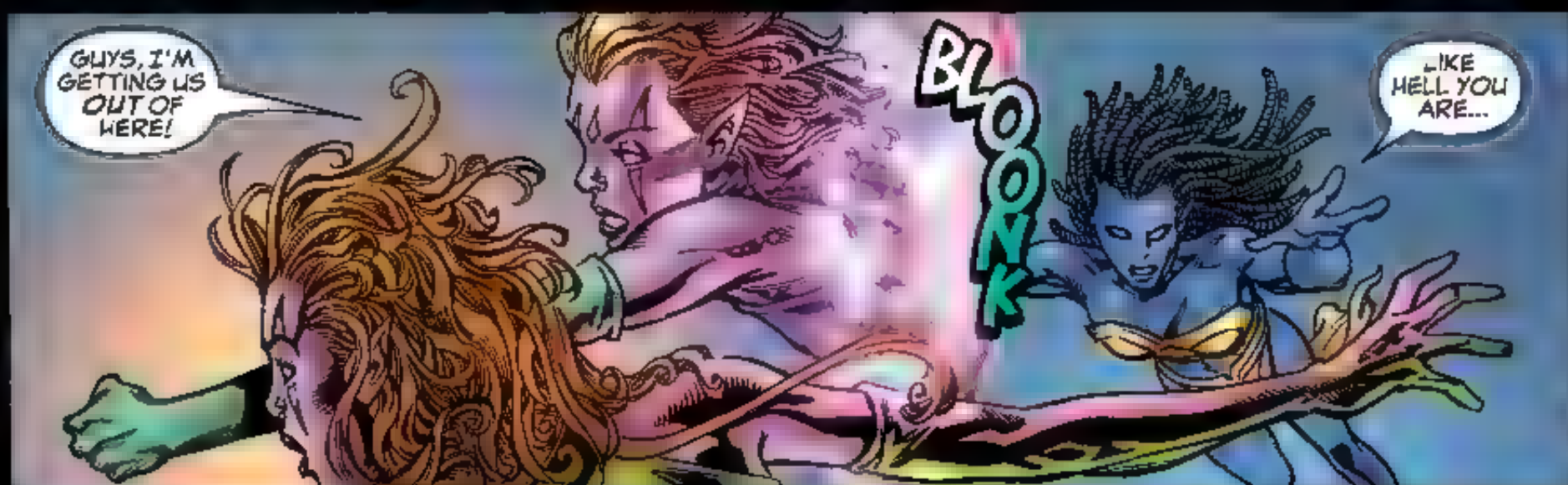
BUT, THIS
DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE! YOU
DON'T EVEN
EXIST, LITTLE
MAN!

EVERY-
BODY CALM THE
SHOCK DOWN
WE DON'T WANT
TROUBLE...



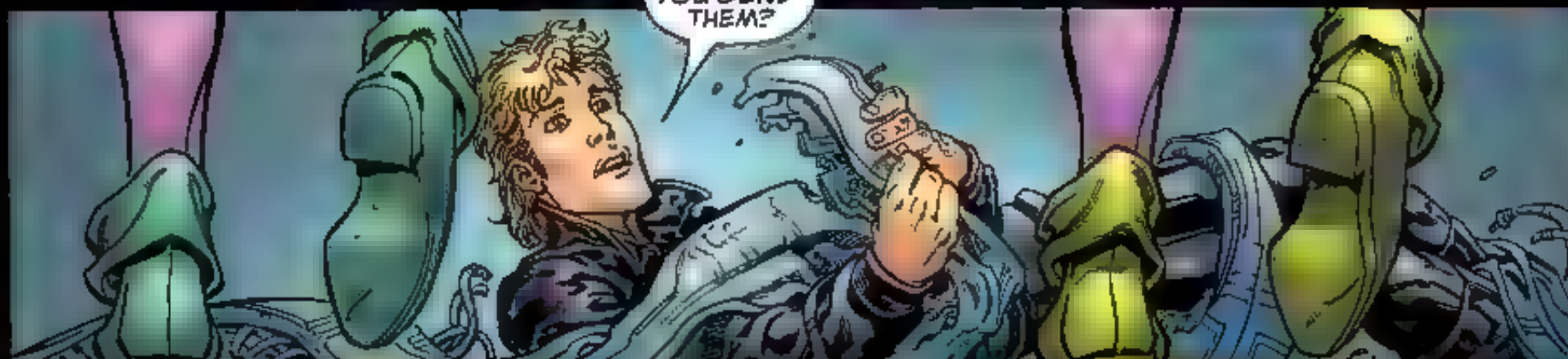








CLARICE!
WHERE DID
YOU SEND
THEM?

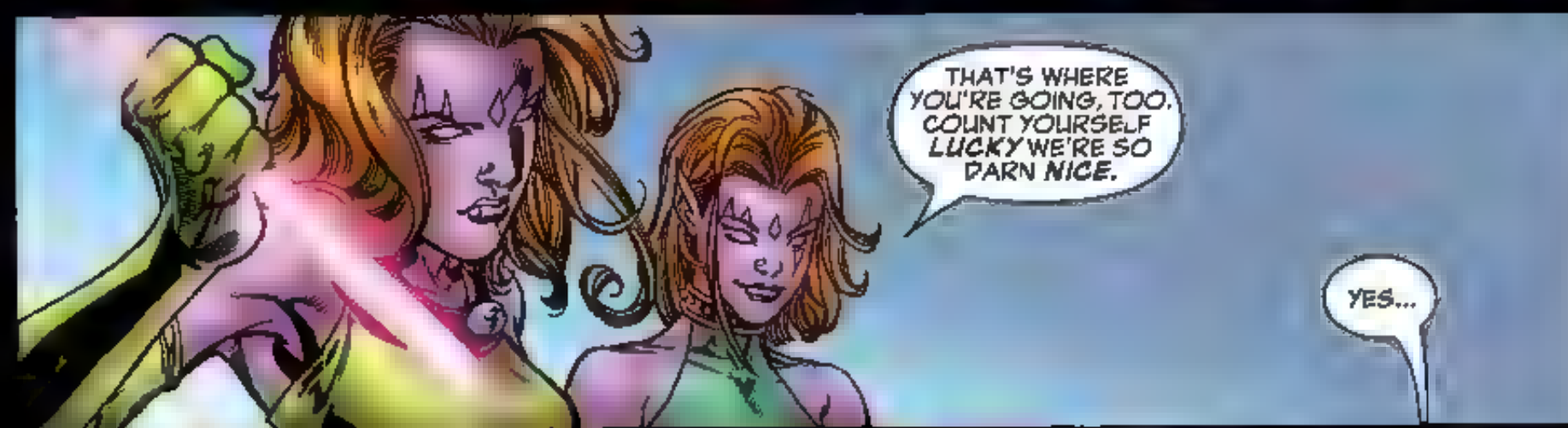


SETTLE DOWN,
ZIGGY STARDUST,
YOUR FRIENDS
AREN'T HURT.



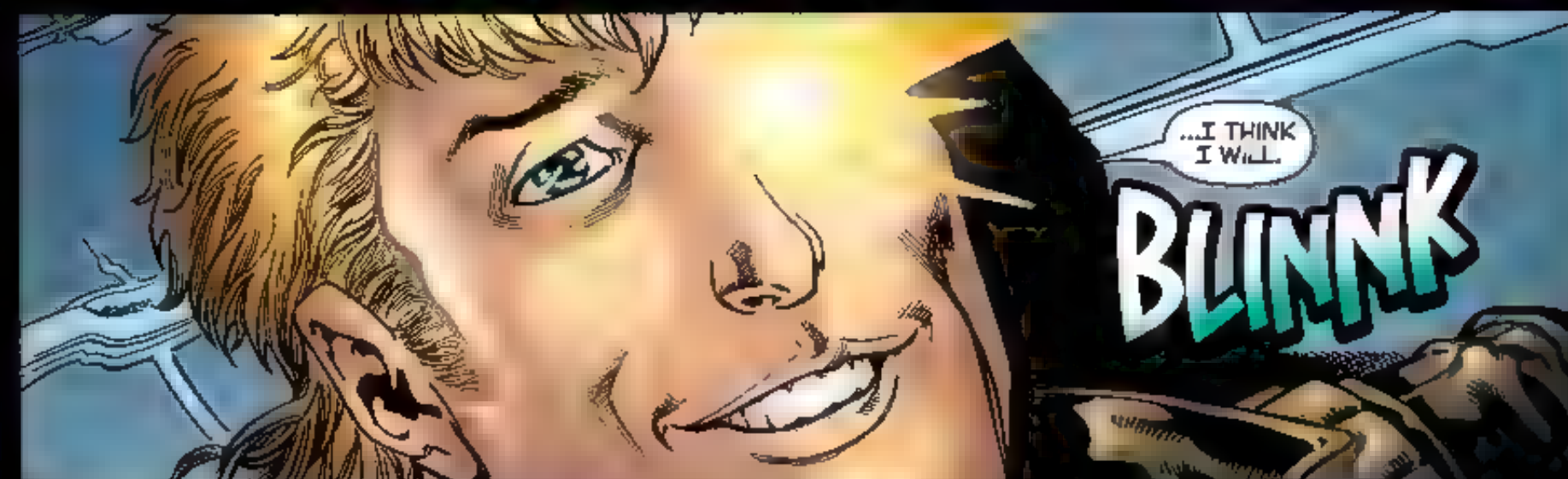
IN FACT,
THEY'RE
QUITE SAFE
NOW.

THE INHIBITOR
FIELDS IN THEIR CELLS
WILL KEEP THEM FROM
HURTING THEMSELVES,
OR ANYONE ELSE.



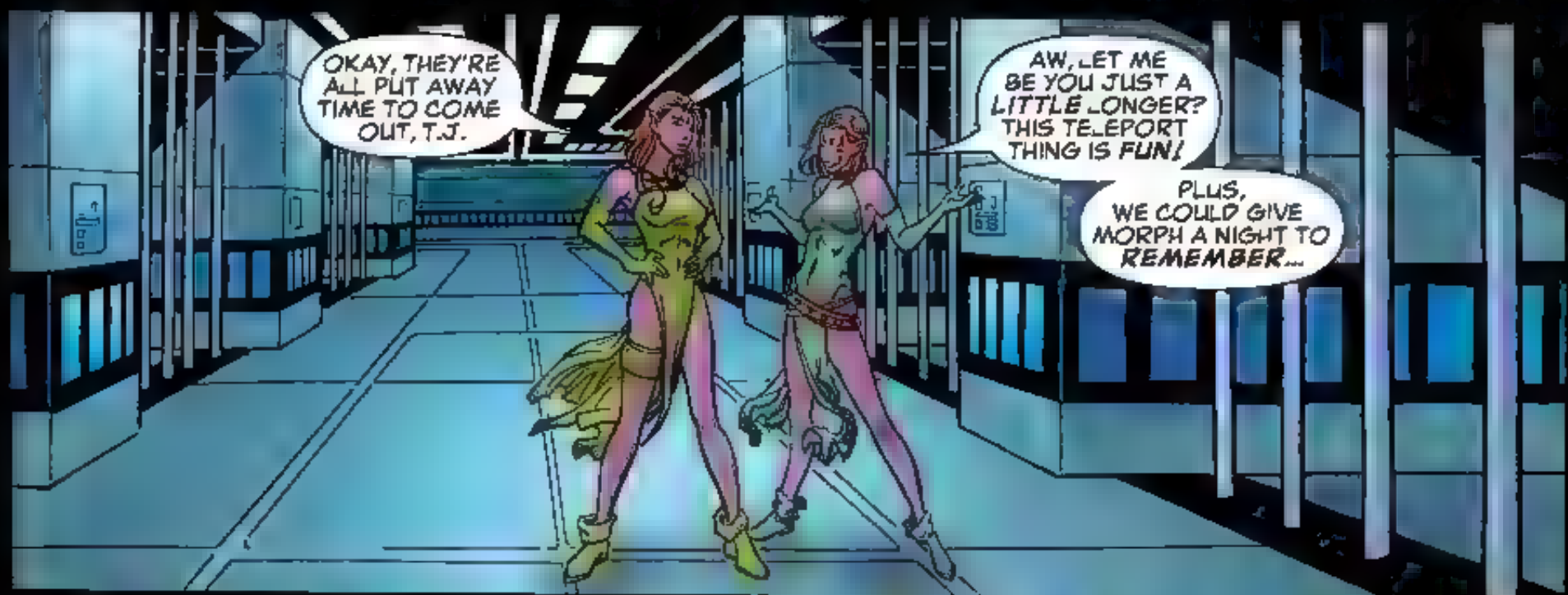
THAT'S WHERE
YOU'RE GOING, TOO.
COUNT YOURSELF
LUCKY WE'RE SO
DARN NICE.

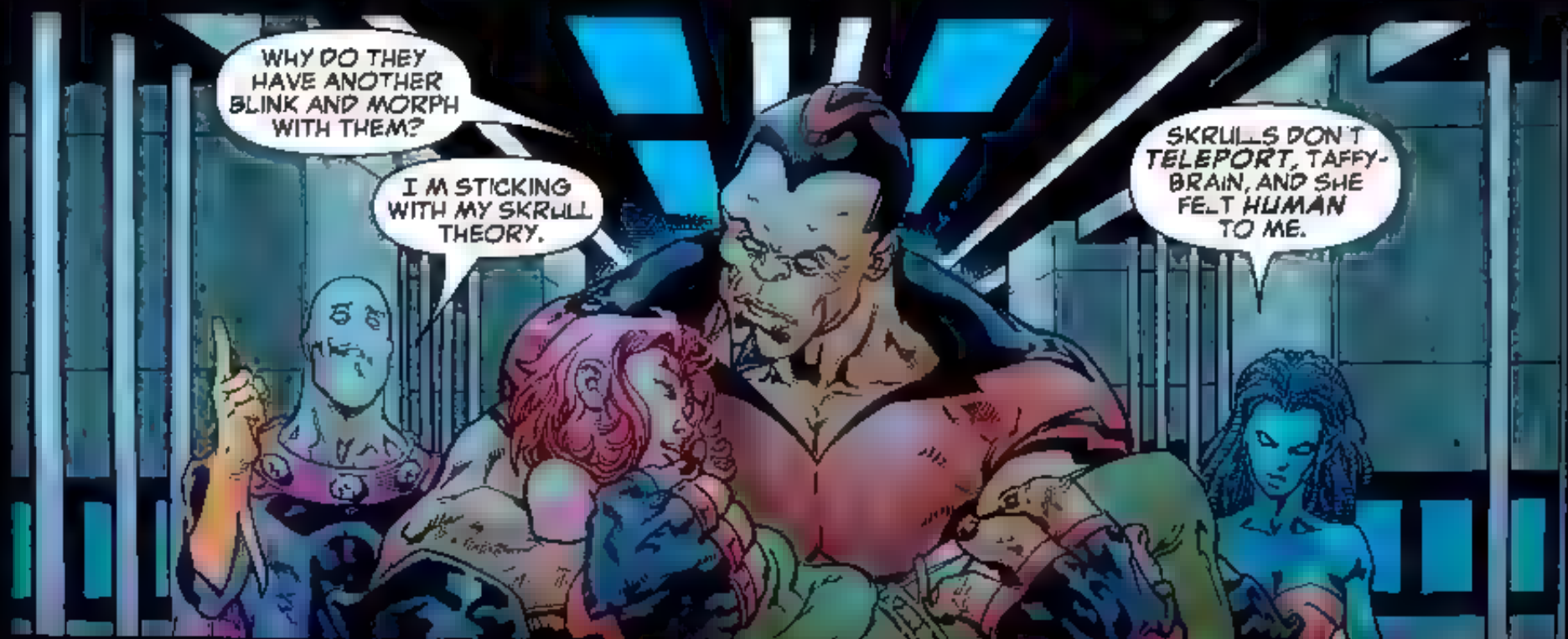
YES...



...I THINK
I WILL.

BLINK

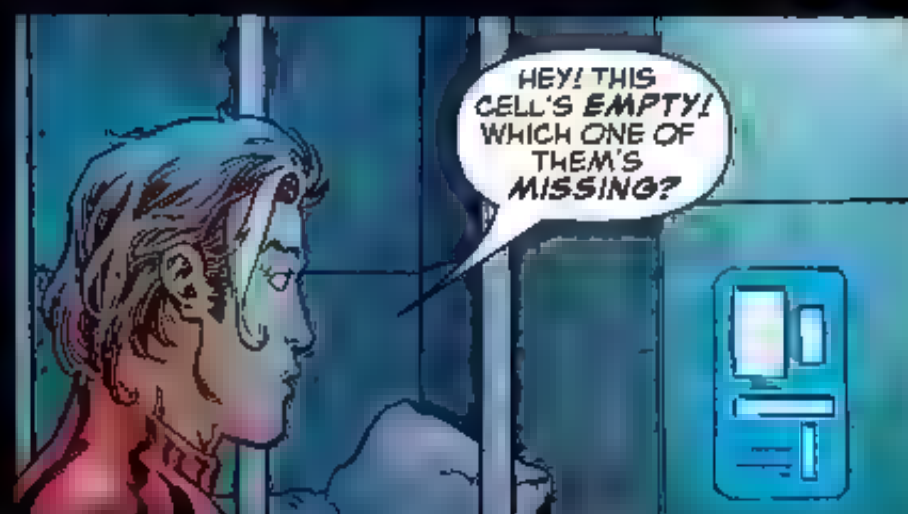




WHY DO THEY
HAVE ANOTHER
BLINK AND MORPH
WITH THEM?

I'M STICKING
WITH MY SKRULL
THEORY.

SKRULLS DON'T
TELEPORT, TAFFY-
BRAIN, AND SHE
FELT HUMAN
TO ME.



HEY! THIS
CELL'S EMPTY!
WHICH ONE OF
THEM'S
MISSING?



THE CUTE
BLONDE--WELL,
CUTE FOR A GUY
WITH A MULLET,
ANYWAY

BUT I KNOW
I 'PORTED HIM
IN THERE...



WHERE IS
HE HIDING?



WHO,
LONGSHOT?
YOUR GUESS
IS AS GOOD
AS MINE.

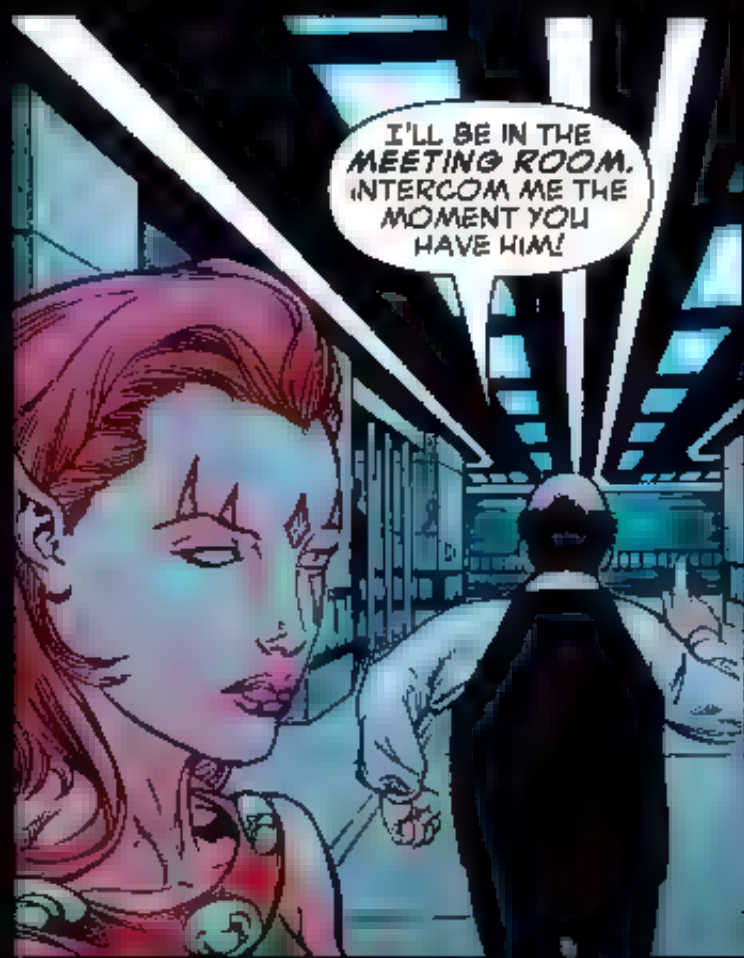
MUST'VE USED
HIS SCREWY LUCK
POWERS TO REDIRECT
WHERE YA BLINKED HIM.
I JUST HOPE HE DIDN'T
END UP IN A WALL.



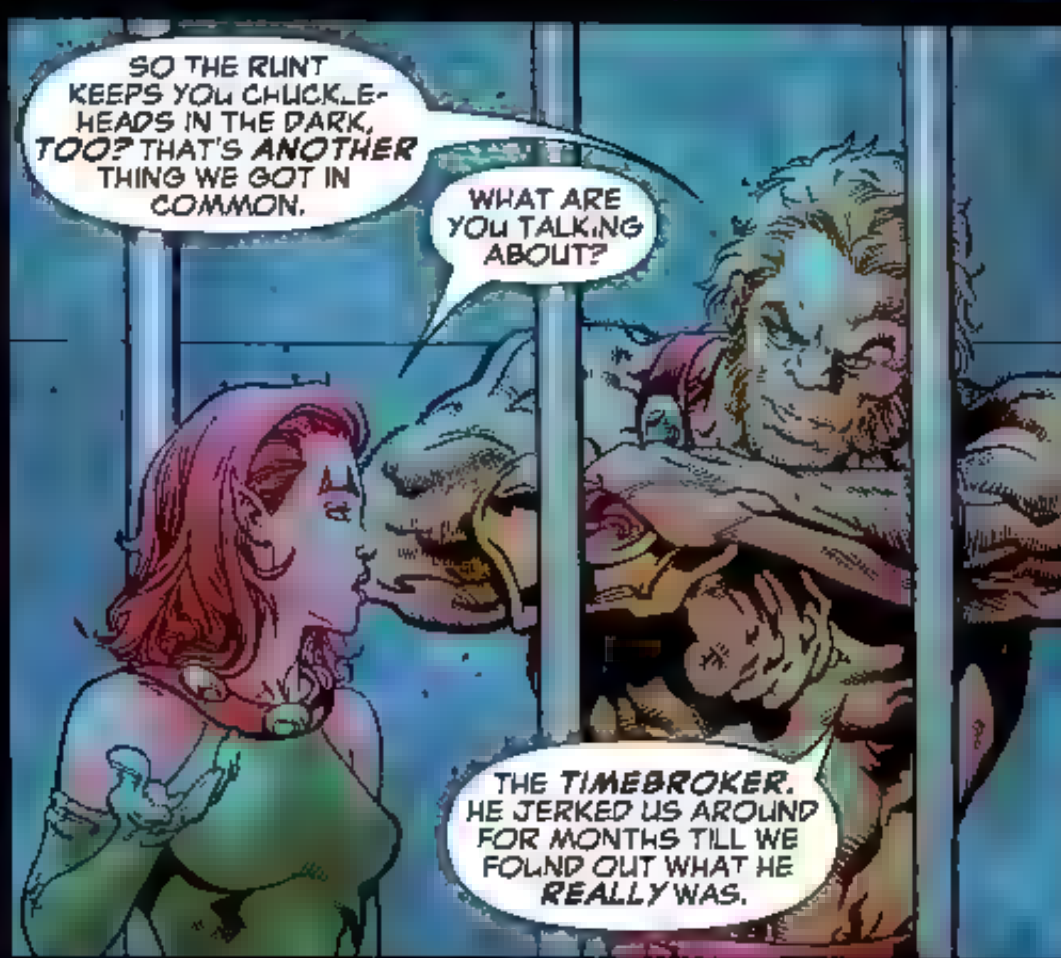
I GUESS YER
BET AIN'T QUITE
SETTLED YET,
IS IT?



SPLIT UP AND
SEARCH THE WHOLE
COMPLEX, TOP TO
BOTTOM! THERE ARE
ONLY SO MANY PLACES
HE CAN HIDE!



I'LL BE IN THE MEETING ROOM. INTERCOM ME THE MOMENT YOU HAVE HIM!



SO THE RUNT KEEPS YOU CHUCKLE-HEADS IN THE DARK, TOO? THAT'S ANOTHER THING WE GOT IN COMMON.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

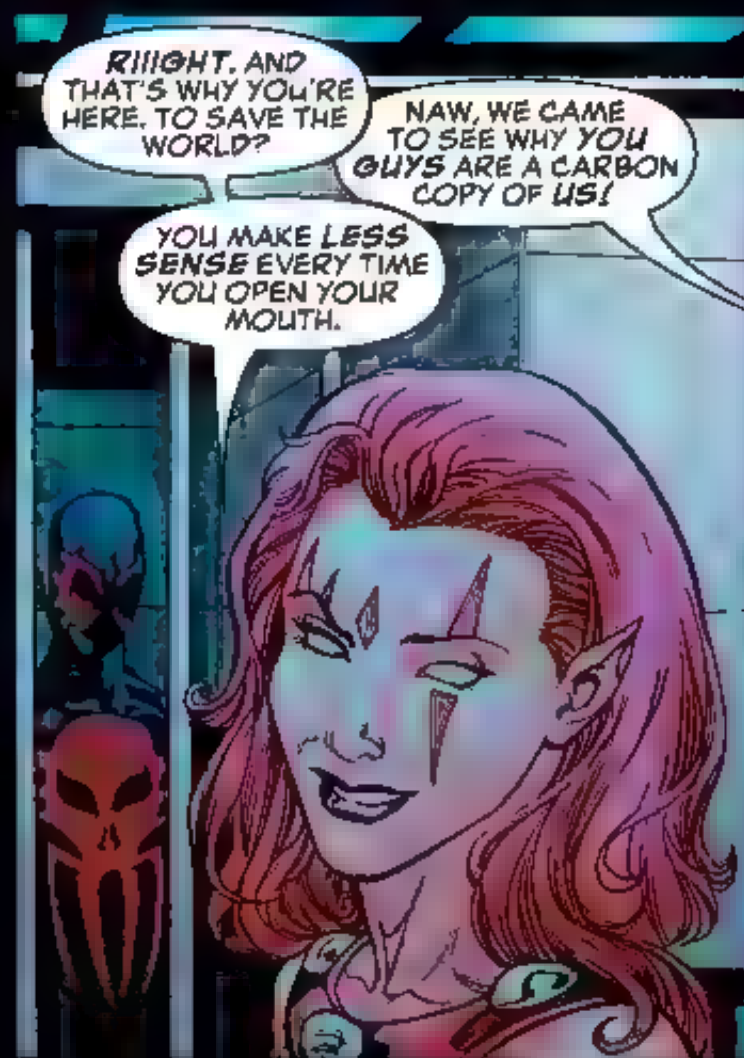
THE TIMEBROKER. HE JERKED US AROUND FOR MONTHS TILL WE FOUND OUT WHAT HE REALLY WAS.



WE WERE STRANGERS WHEN HE THREW US TOGETHER AN' SAID IT WAS OUR JOB TO SAVE THE WORLD—OVER, AN' OVER, AN' OVER AGAIN.

HE GAVE US THIS COMMUNICATOR BRACELET CALLED THE TALLUS, AN' THEN THREW US IN THE DEEP END.

ANY OF THIS SOUNDIN' FAMILIAR?



RIIIGHT. AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE. TO SAVE THE WORLD?

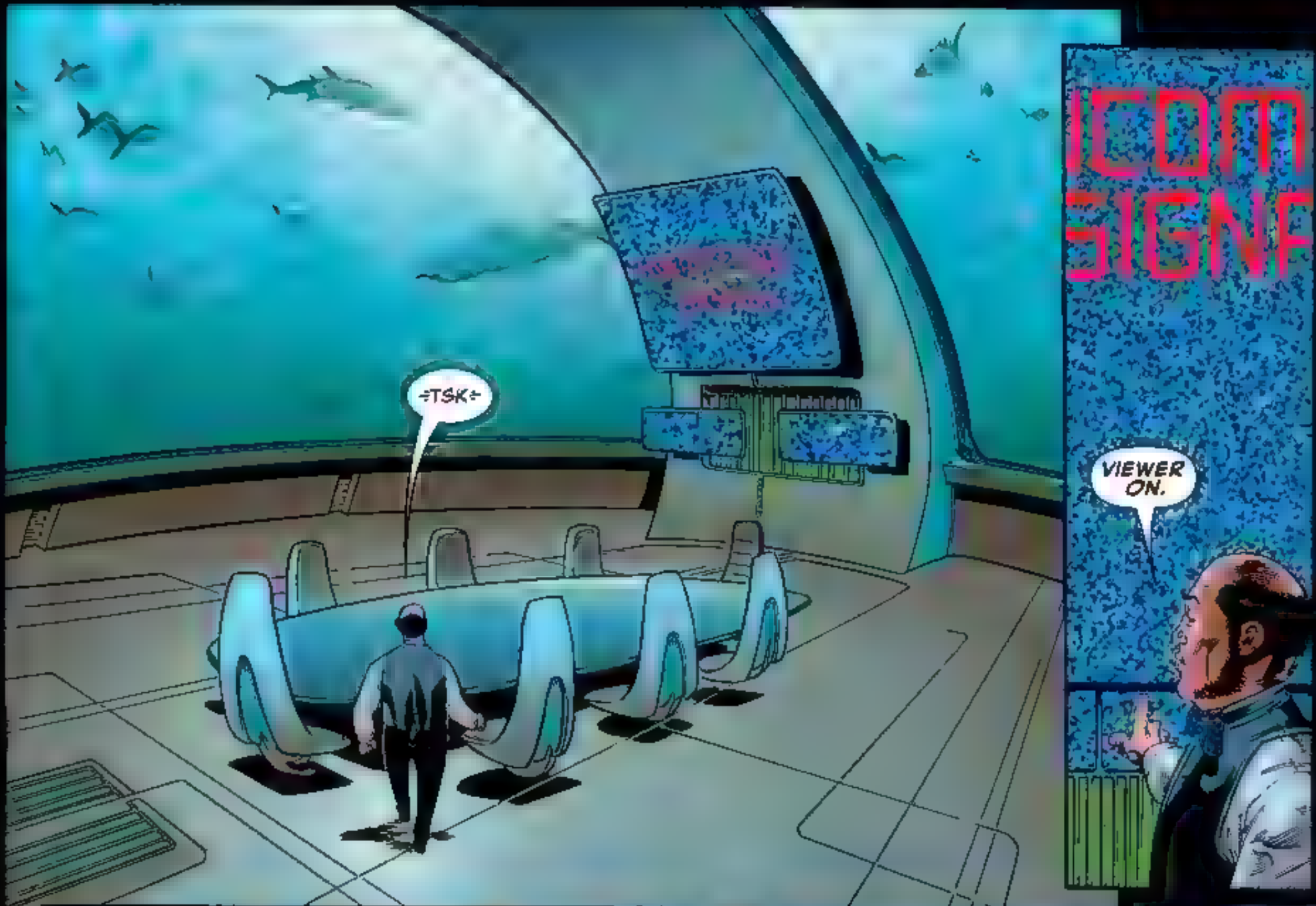
NAW, WE CAME TO SEE WHY YOU GUYS ARE A CARBON COPY OF US!

YOU MAKE LESS SENSE EVERY TIME YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH.



YOU'RE GETTIN' USED, PLP, JUST LIKE WE GOT USED.

THERE IS NO TIMEBROKER. NOT REALLY. YOU JUST AIN'T FIGURED OUT THE TRUTH YET.





DON'T LECTURE
ME ABOUT RULES!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN
WITH WHOM YOU ARE
SPEAKING?



IF I HAVE, IT
IS ONLY BECAUSE
OF THAT RIDICULOUS
GUISE YOU CHOOSE
TO WEAR.

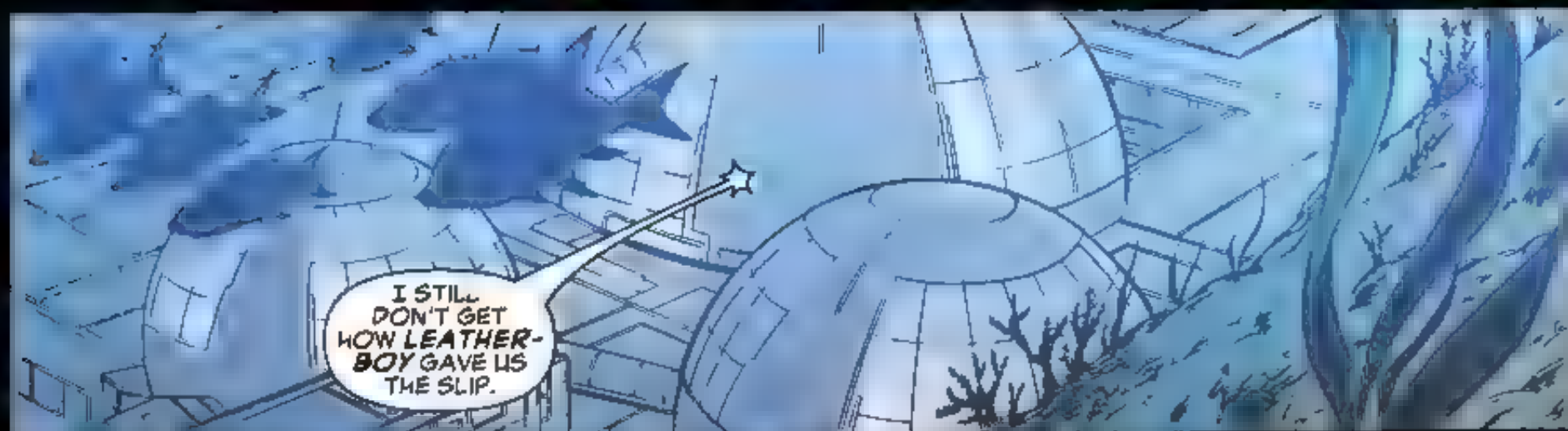
AT LEAST HAVE
THE DECENCY TO FACE
ME AS YOURSELF
INSTEAD OF THIS
CARICATURE!



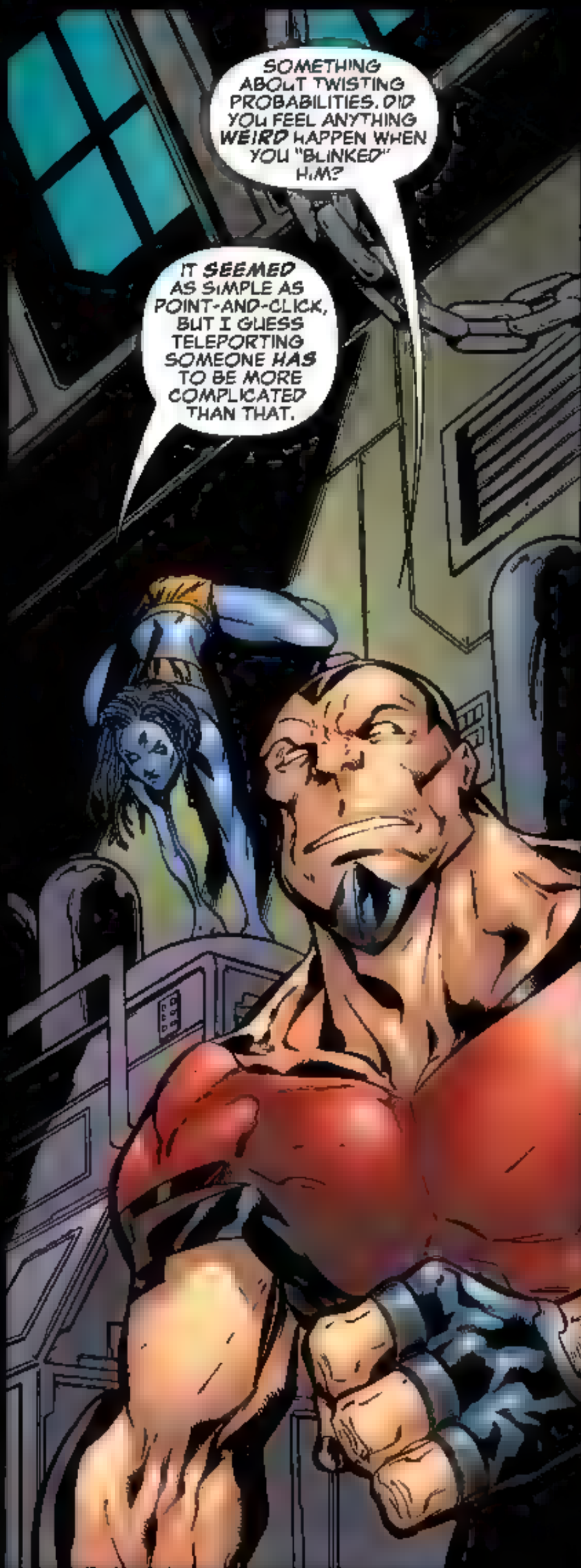
VERY
WELL...



...PERHAPS
THE TIME FOR
SUBTERFUGE
IS OVER ..



I STILL
DON'T GET
HOW LEATHER-
BOY GAVE US
THE SLIP.



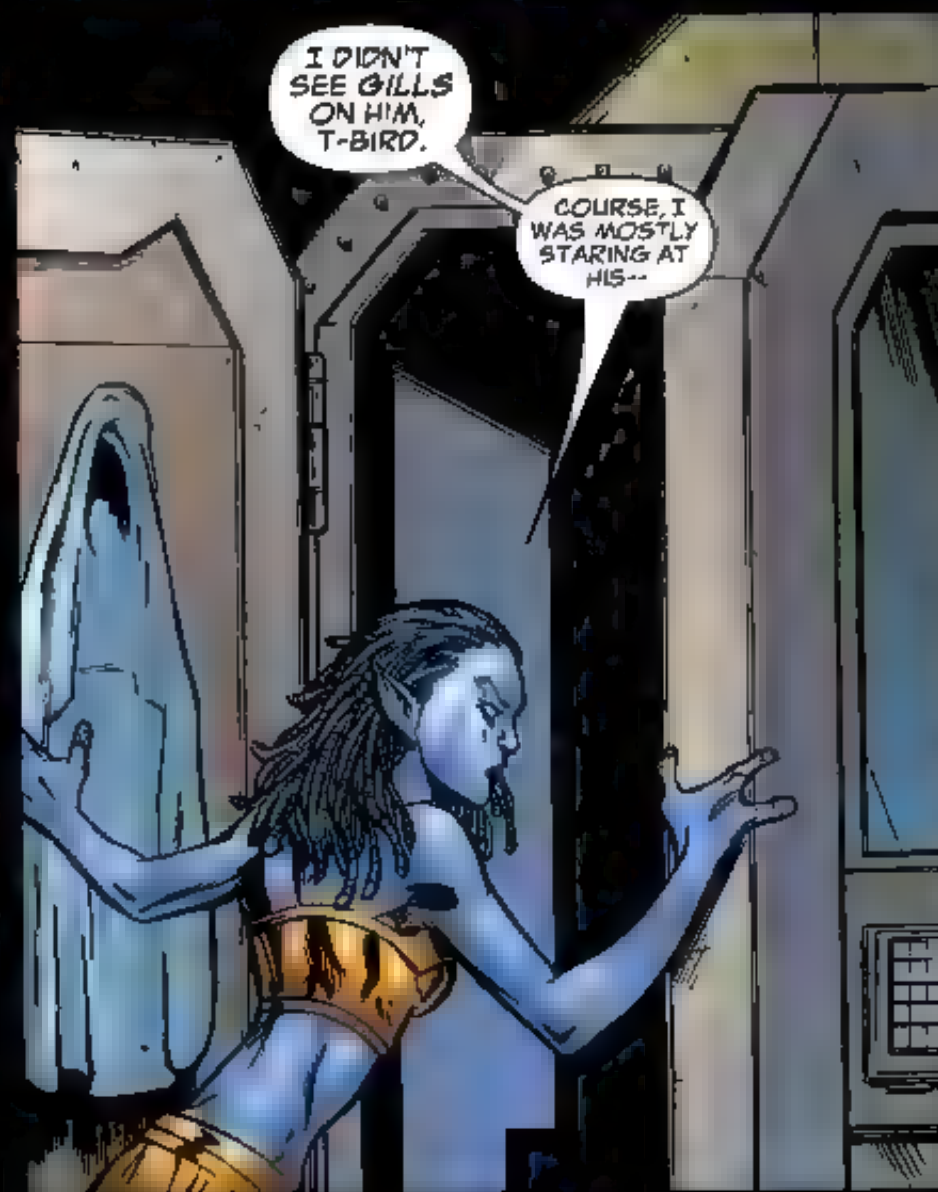
SOMETHING
ABOUT TWISTING
PROBABILITIES. DID
YOU FEEL ANYTHING
WEIRD HAPPEN WHEN
YOU "BLINKED"
HIM?

IT SEEMED
AS SIMPLE AS
POINT-AND-CLICK,
BUT I GUESS
TELEPORTING
SOMEONE HAS
TO BE MORE
COMPLICATED
THAN THAT.



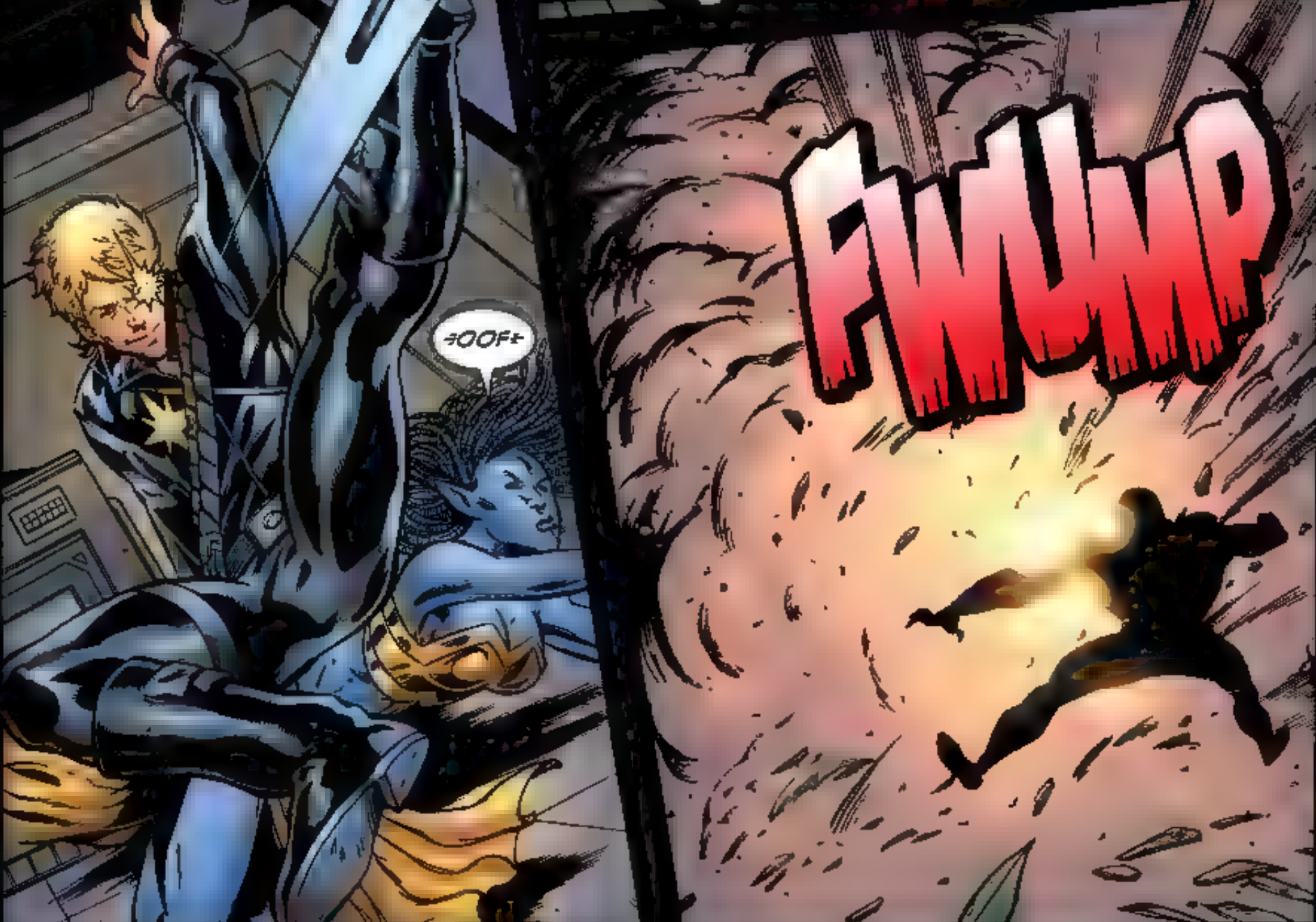
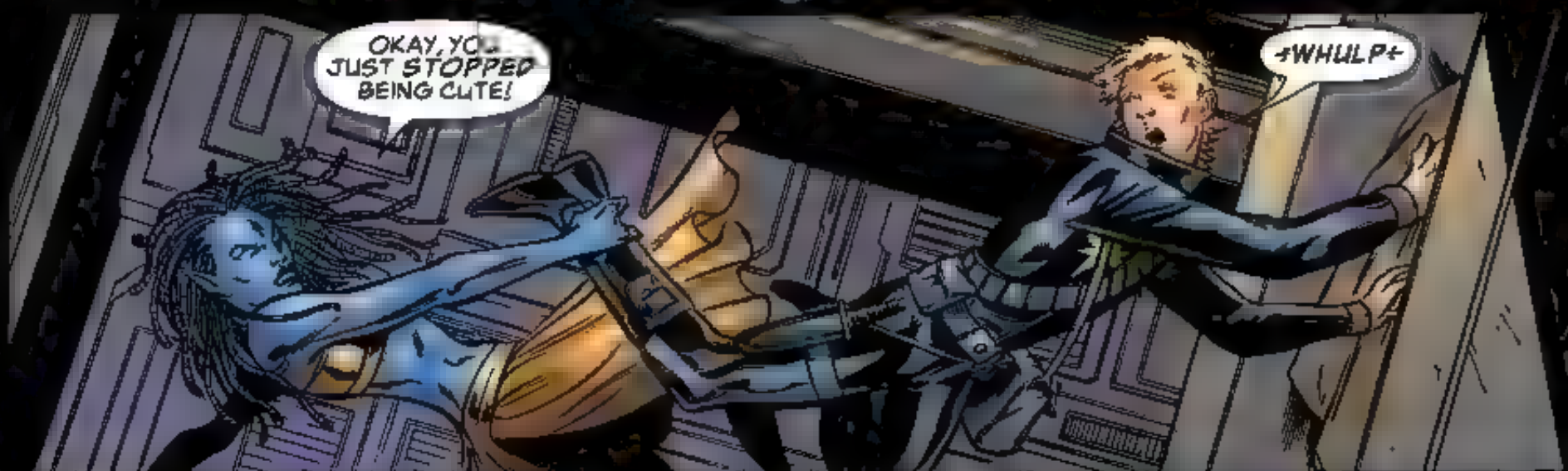
WELL, HE'S
EITHER HIDING,
OR...

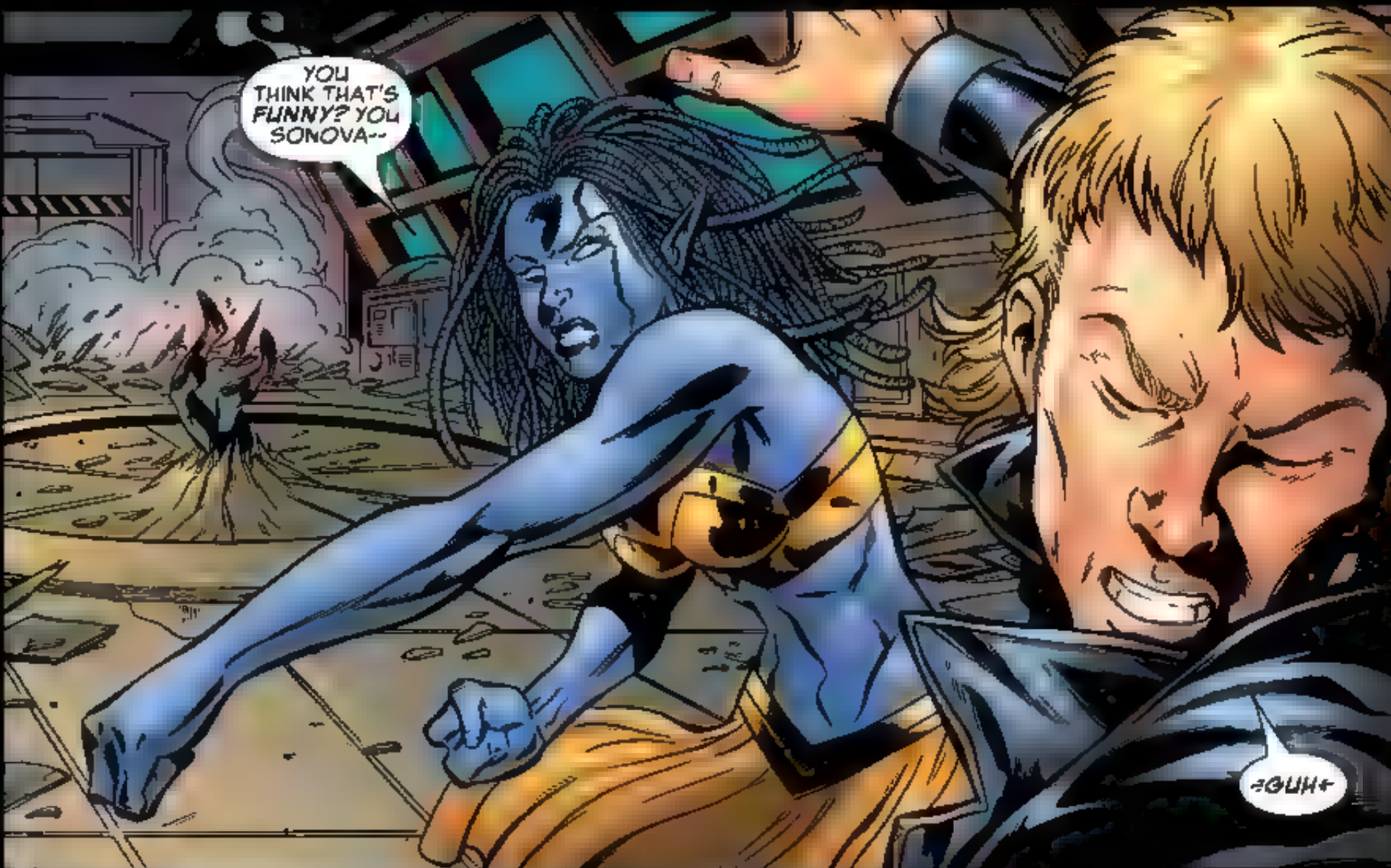
YOU DON'T
THINK HE TRIED
GOING OUT THIS
WAY, DO YOU?



I DIDN'T
SEE GILLS
ON HIM,
T-BIRD.

COURSE, I
WAS MOSTLY
STARING AT
HIS--





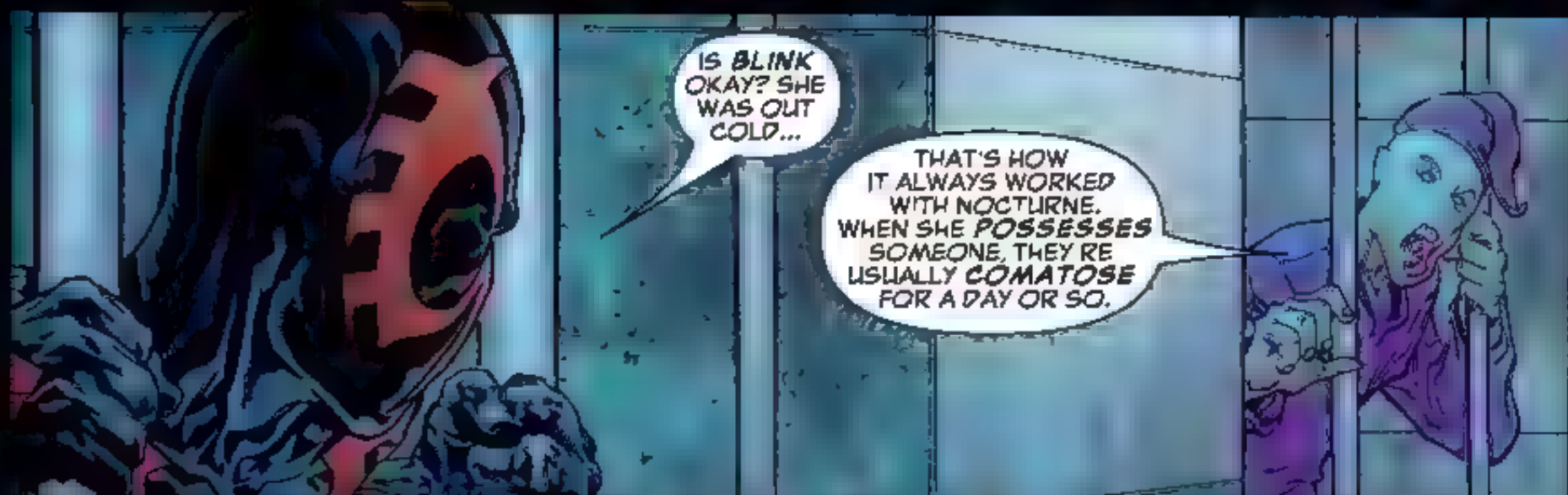


WAS THAT
AN EXPLOSION I
JUST HEARD?



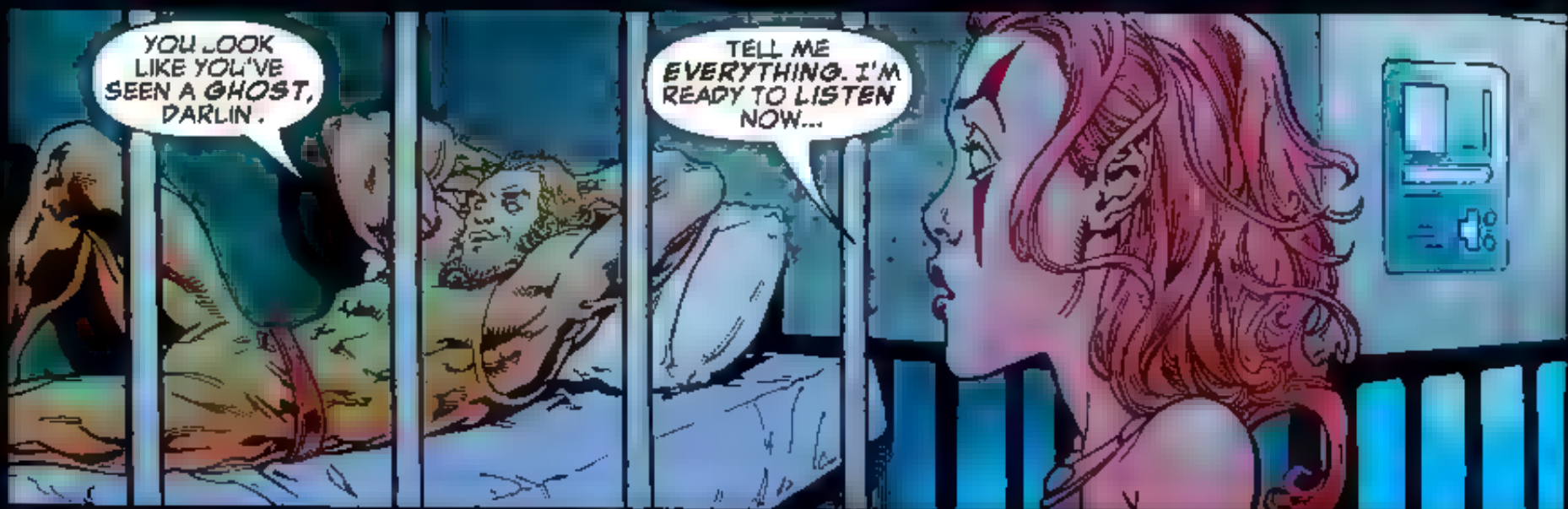
I RECKON
THEY FOUND
LONGSHOT.
-HEH- PROBABLY
WISH THEY
HADN'T.

THE KID
DON'T LOOK
LIKE MUCH, BUT
HE SURE PACKS
A WALLOP.



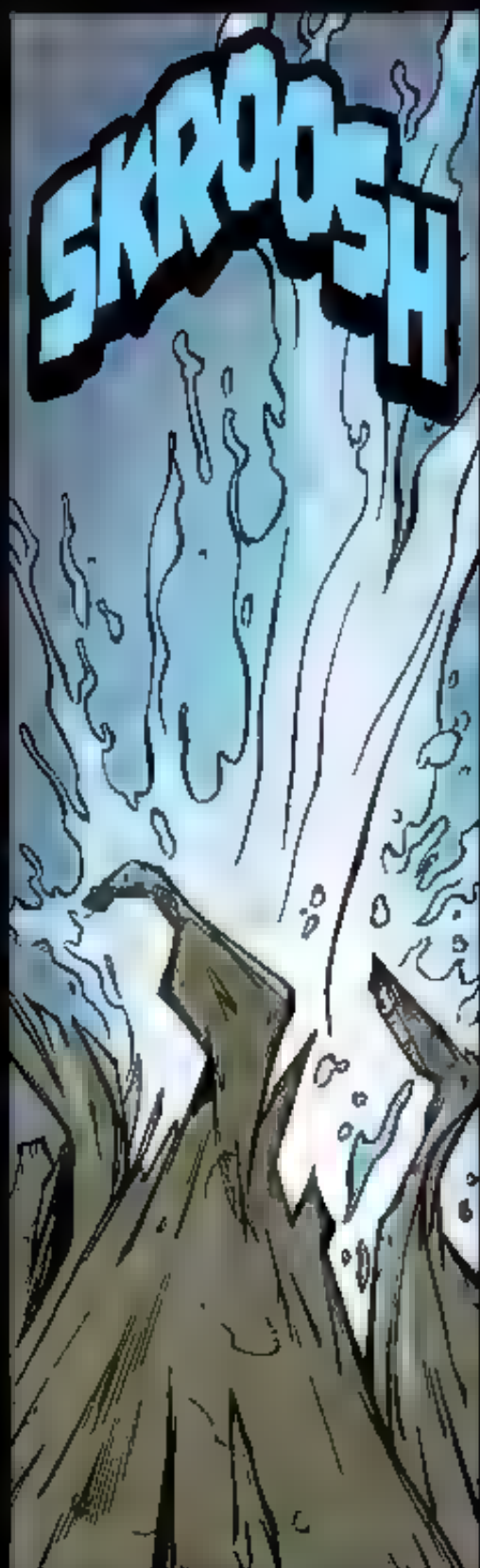
IS BLINK
OKAY? SHE
WAS OUT
COLD...

THAT'S HOW
IT ALWAYS WORKED
WITH NOCTURNE.
WHEN SHE POSSESSES
SOMEONE, THEY'RE
USUALLY COMATOSE
FOR A DAY OR SO.



YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE
SEEN A GHOST,
DARLIN.

TELL ME
EVERYTHING. I'M
READY TO LISTEN
NOW...



I'M GONNA
SQUASH THAT
SNEAKY
LITTLE--

WE'LL
HAVE TO FIND
HIM FIRST,
T-BIRD



LOOKS LIKE
HE MANAGED
TO GET PAST
NOCTURNE.

DID HE
HURT HER?!
IS SHE...?



SHE'S FINE.
OUT COLD, BUT HE DIDN'T
REALLY INJURE HER, EVEN
THOUGH HE COULD'VE
KILLED HER.

NOW, WHY DO
YOU SUPPOSE
HE'D SHOW
MERCY?

SOMETIMES
YOU THINK TOO
MUCH, CAL...



...LOOK, I'VE
TOLD YOU EVERY-
THING I KNOW--

BUT IT DOESN'T
ADD UP! HE DIDN'T
TURN INTO ONE OF
THESE "SMART-BUGS"
YOU DESCRIBED--
JUST A GUY WITH
BLUE SKIN AND
WHITE HAIR.

AN ALIEN, I
GUESS, BUT NOT
ONE OF THOSE
KREE WE FOUGHT
A WHILE BACK...



...THIS GUY
WAS REALLY TALL
AND THIN AS A RAIL,
BUT YOU COULD FEEL
THE POWER JUST
OOZING OFF HIM.

OKAY, NOW
THAT RINGS
A BELL--

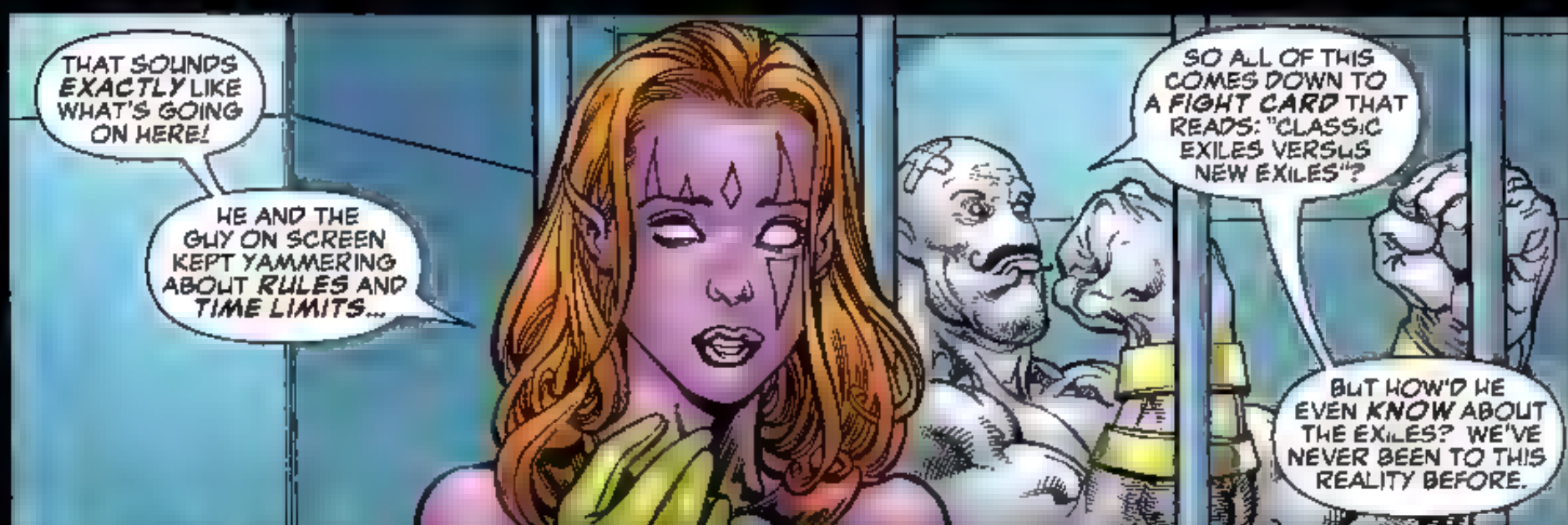
SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEONE WHO
TRIED TO PULL THE
STRINGS OF MY OLD
TEAM, THE SQUADRON
SUPREME, A FEW
YEARS BACK...



"...HE CALLED HIMSELF
THE GRANDMASTER--
SOME SORT OF IMMORTAL,
COSMIC GAME-ADDICT.

"HE HAD POWER ON THE
LEVEL OF THE WATCHER
OR THE SILVER SURFER,
BUT SQUANDERED IT
SETTING UP CONTESTS
BETWEEN SUPER-PEOPLE.

"HE FORCED US TO FIGHT
OUR ARCHENEMIES, THE
INSTITUTE OF EVIL, ALL ON
A BET HE MADE WITH ONE
OF HIS COSMIC FRIENDS."



THAT SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

HE AND THE GUY ON SCREEN KEPT YAMMERING ABOUT RULES AND TIME LIMITS...

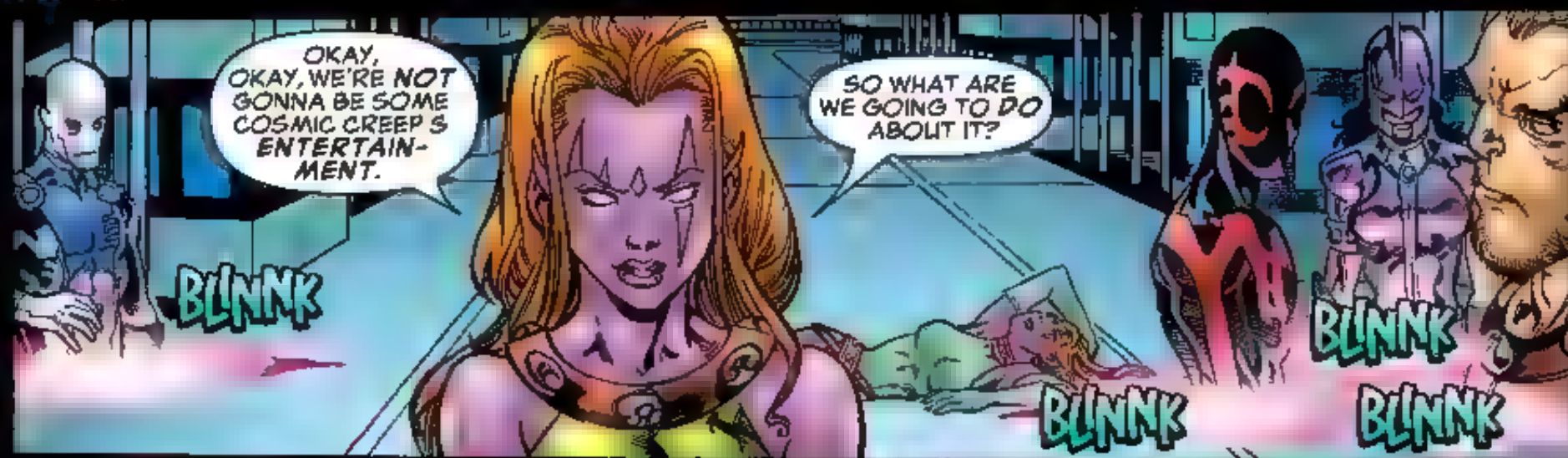
SO ALL OF THIS COMES DOWN TO A FIGHT CARD THAT READS: "CLASSIC EXILES VERSUS NEW EXILES"?

BUT HOW'D HE EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE EXILES? WE'VE NEVER BEEN TO THIS REALITY BEFORE.



WHEN HE FIRST BROUGHT US TOGETHER, I THOUGHT WE WERE DOING SOME GOOD, PUTTING ALL THESE BAD GUYS AWAY.

NOW I WONDER IF HE SENT THEM AGAINST US, TOO...



OKAY, OKAY, WE'RE NOT GONNA BE SOME COSMIC CREEP'S ENTERTAINMENT.

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK



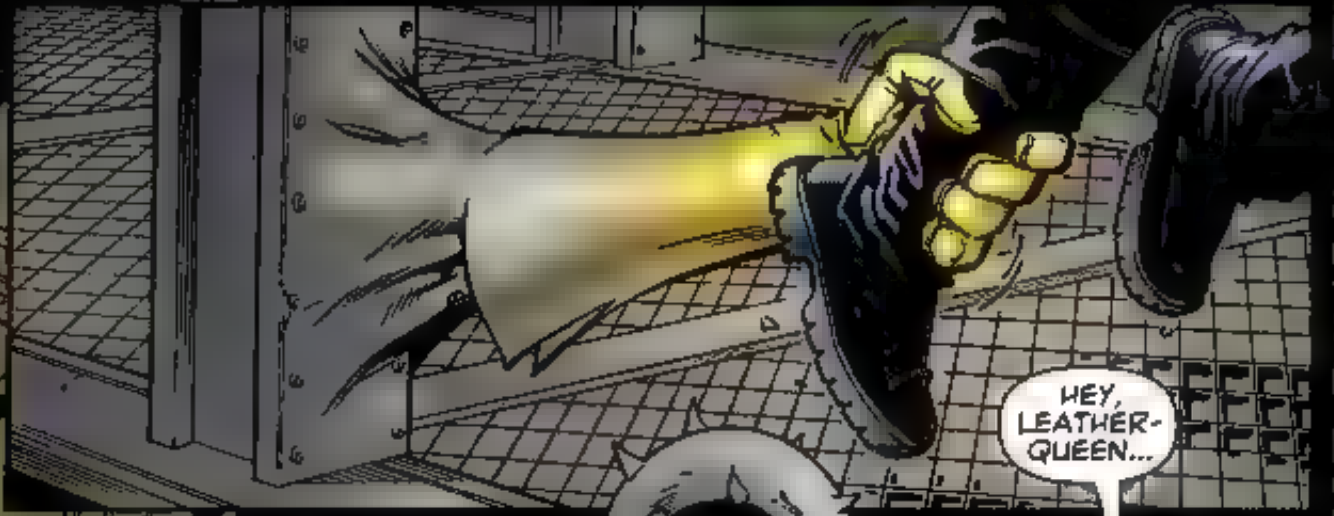
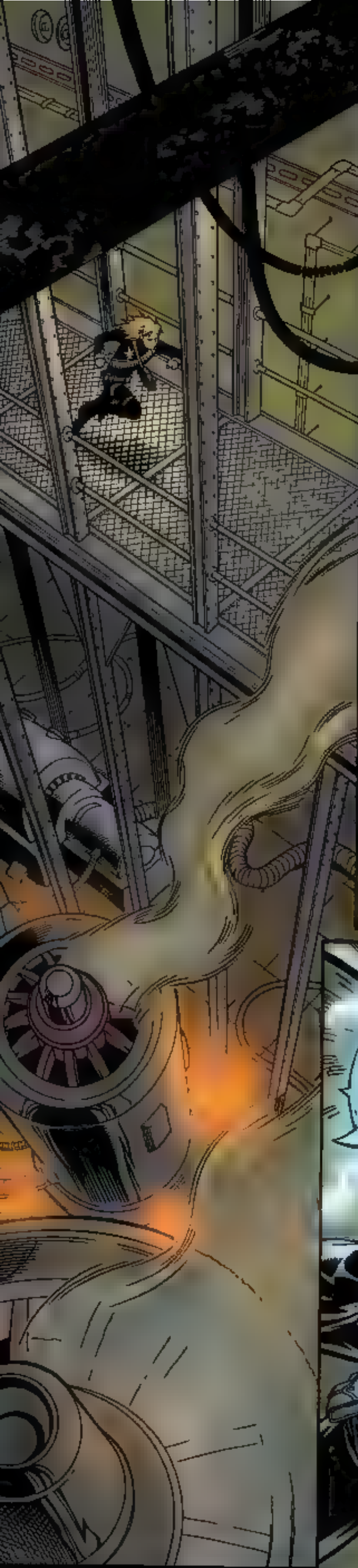
THIS GRANDMASTER IS AN ENTITY WHO CAN LITERALLY THINK US DEAD.

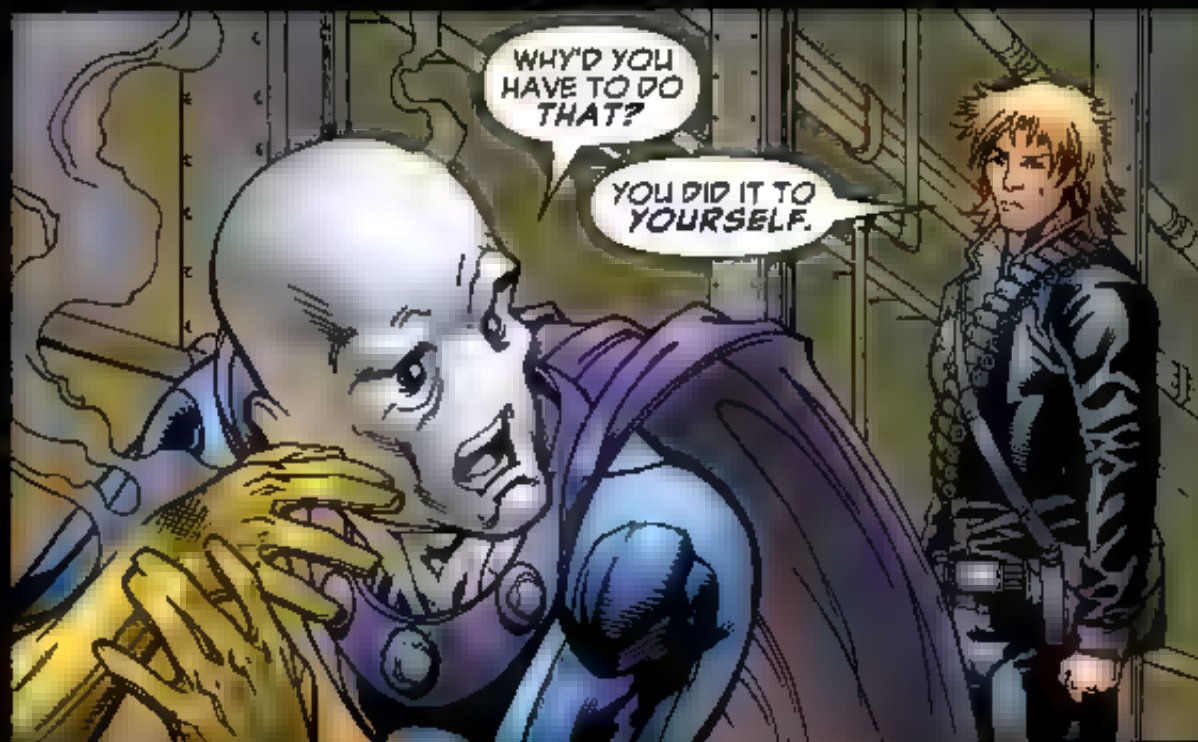
WE MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO FACE HIM.



YOU SURE YOU'RE COUNTIN' EVERYONE HERE WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM?









LESS THAN A MINUTE TO GO. WE EXPECT YOU TO HONOR THE DEAL.

I WON'T HAVE TO. ANY MOMENT NOW, MY EXILES WILL REPORT THEIR SUCCESS.

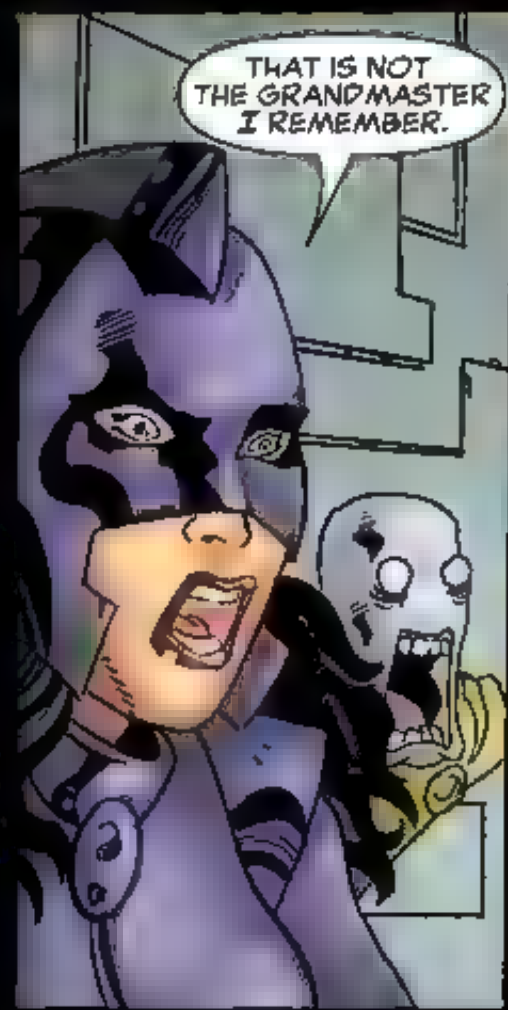


TIMEBROKER! WE QUIT!!



YOU WHAT?!

HUH? THERE'S TWO OF 'EM?



THAT IS NOT THE GRANDMASTER I REMEMBER.



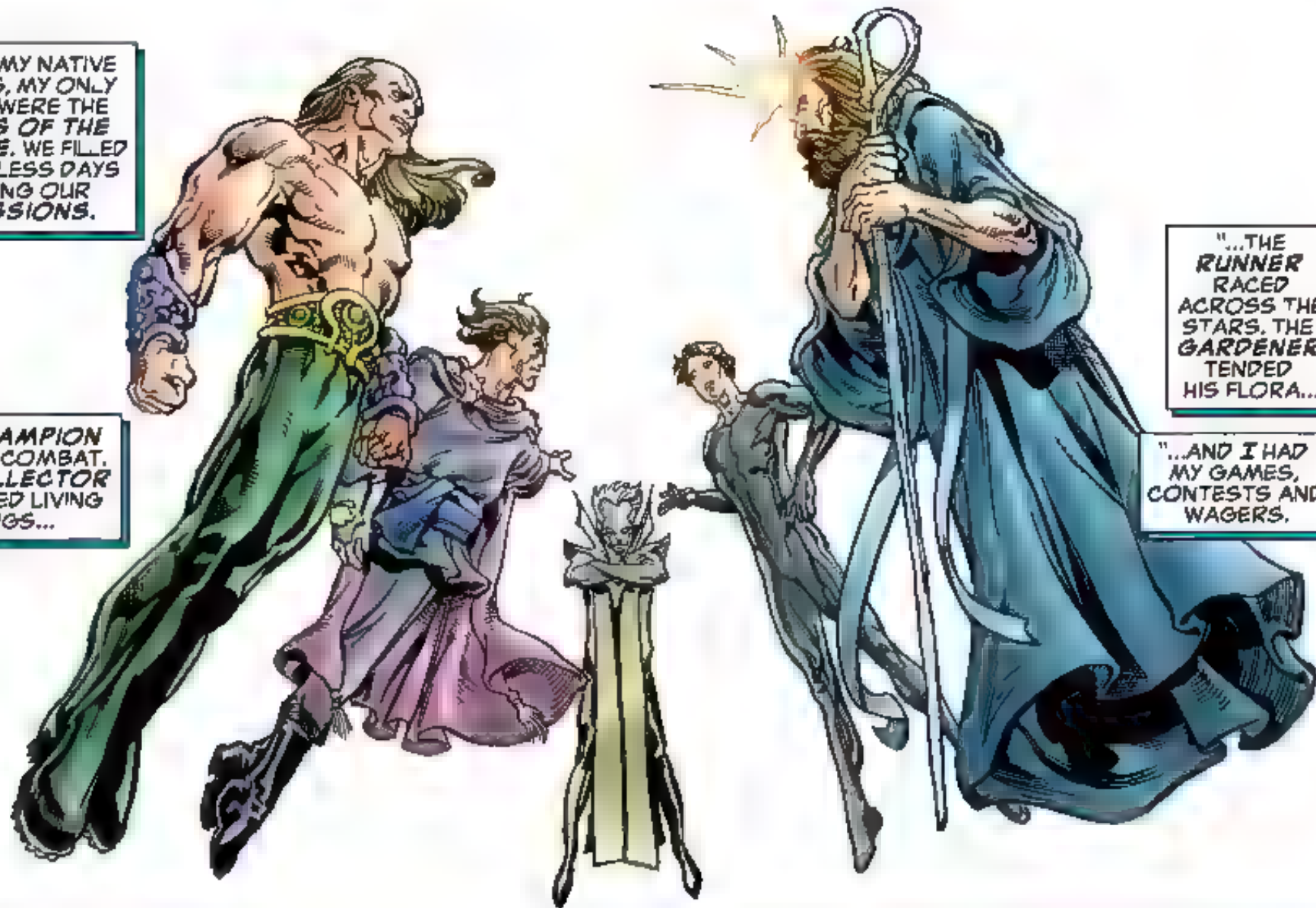
OH, BUT I REMEMBER YOU...

BACK IN MY NATIVE COSMOS, MY ONLY EQUALS WERE THE ELDERS OF THE UNIVERSE. WE FILLED OUR ENDLESS DAYS PURSUING OUR OBSESSIONS.

"THE CHAMPION SOUGHT COMBAT. THE COLLECTOR ACQUIRED LIVING BEINGS...

"...THE RUNNER RACED ACROSS THE STARS. THE GARDENER TENDED HIS FLORA...

"...AND I HAD MY GAMES, CONTESTS AND WAGERS.



ONE DAY, THE COLLECTOR AND I FOUND THE YOUNG PLANET EARTH SPAWNING STRANGELY EMPOWERED MUTANT ABERRATIONS.

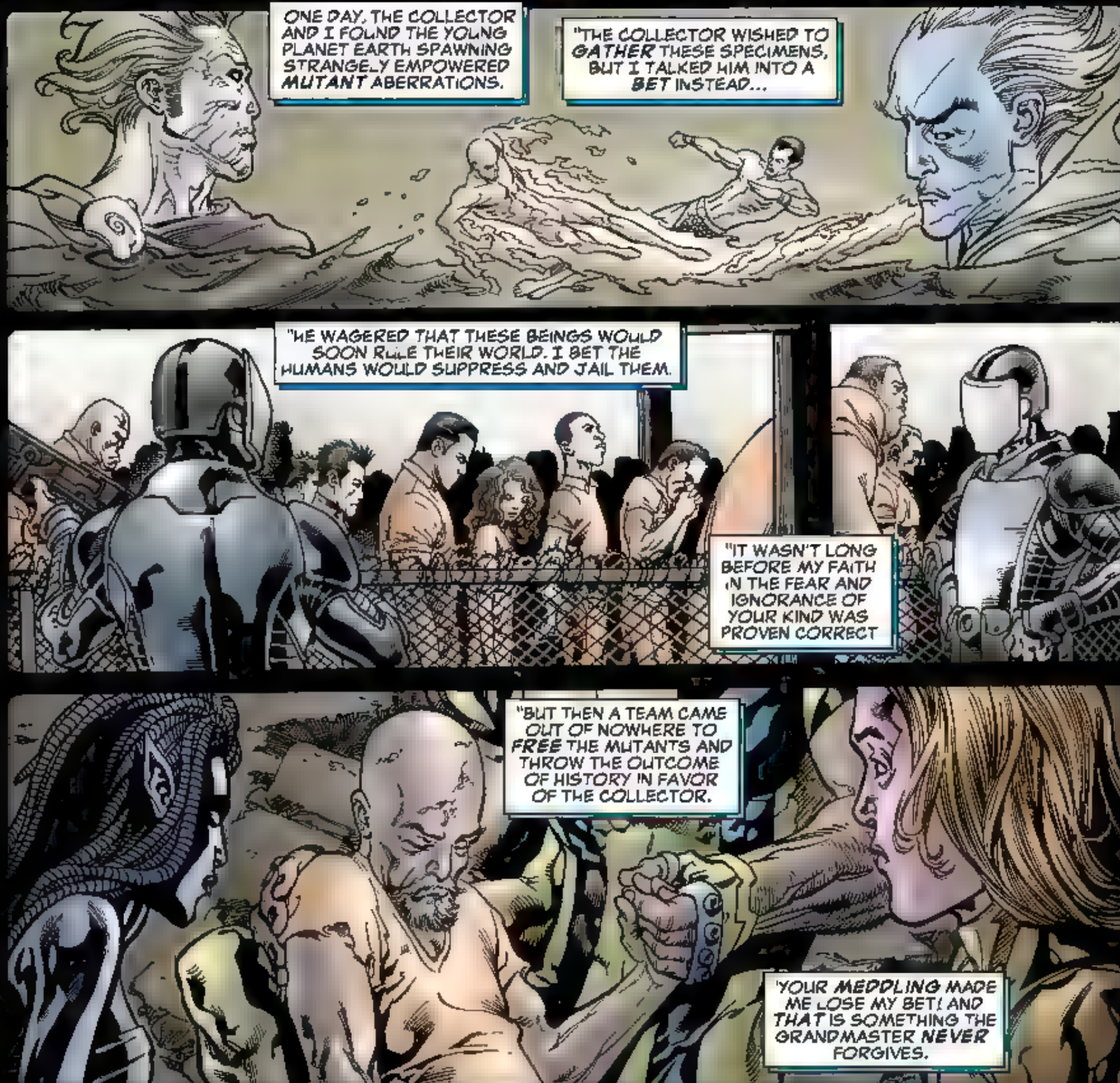
"THE COLLECTOR WISHED TO GATHER THESE SPECIMENS, BUT I TALKED HIM INTO A BET INSTEAD...

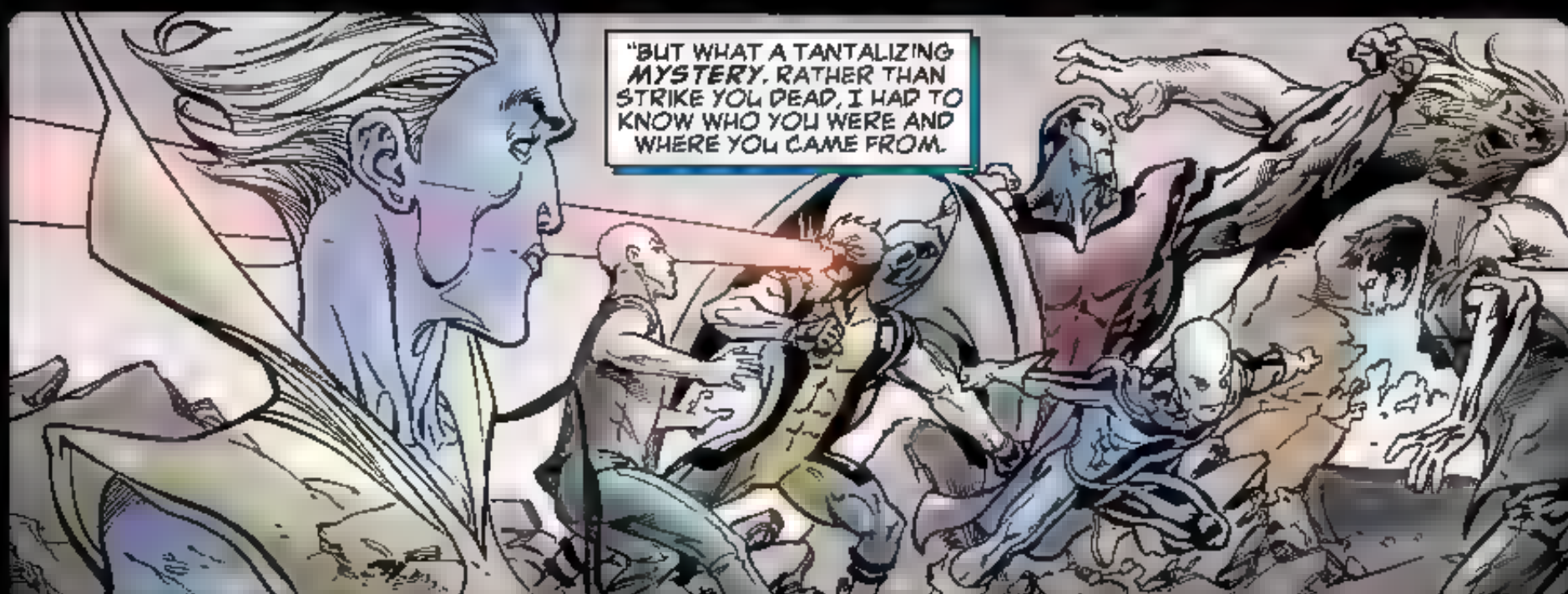
"HE WAGERED THAT THESE BEINGS WOULD SOON RULE THEIR WORLD. I BET THE HUMANS WOULD SUPPRESS AND JAIL THEM.

"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE MY FAITH IN THE FEAR AND IGNORANCE OF YOUR KIND WAS PROVEN CORRECT

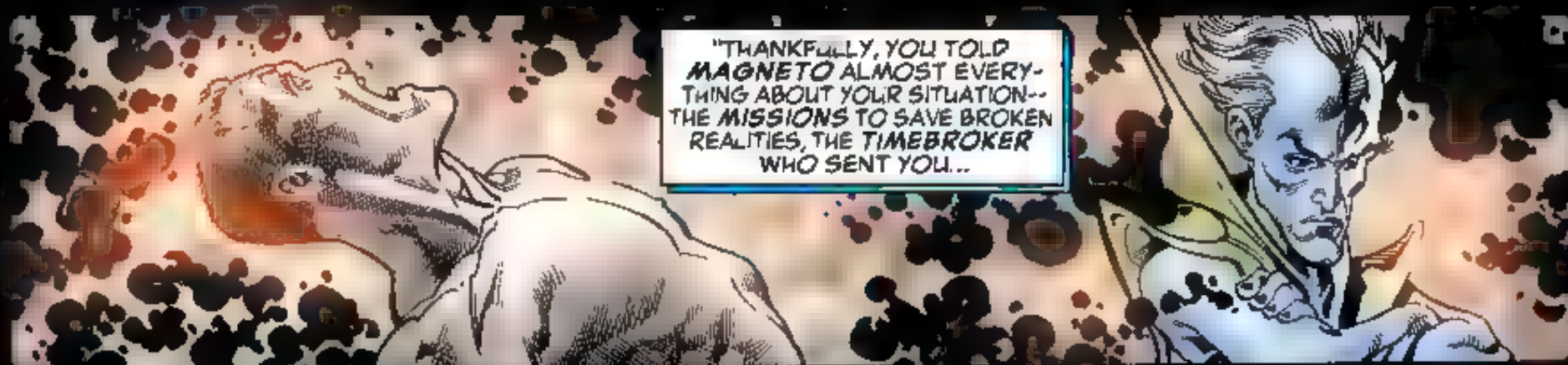
"BUT THEN A TEAM CAME OUT OF NOWHERE TO FREE THE MUTANTS AND THROW THE OUTCOME OF HISTORY IN FAVOR OF THE COLLECTOR.

"YOUR MEDDLING MADE ME LOSE MY BET! AND THAT IS SOMETHING THE GRANDMASTER NEVER FORGIVES.

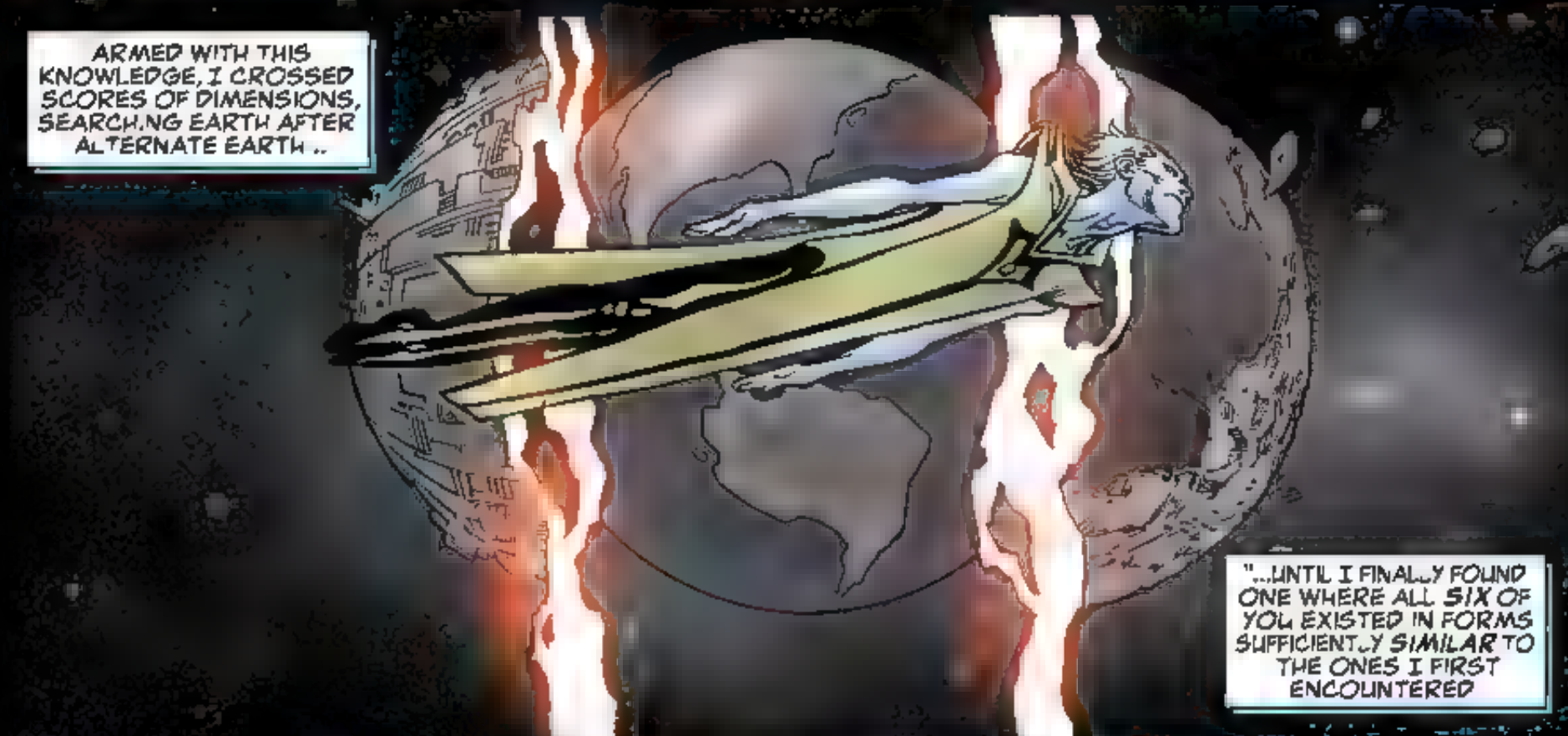




"BUT WHAT A TANTALIZING MYSTERY. RATHER THAN STRIKE YOU DEAD, I HAD TO KNOW WHO YOU WERE AND WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

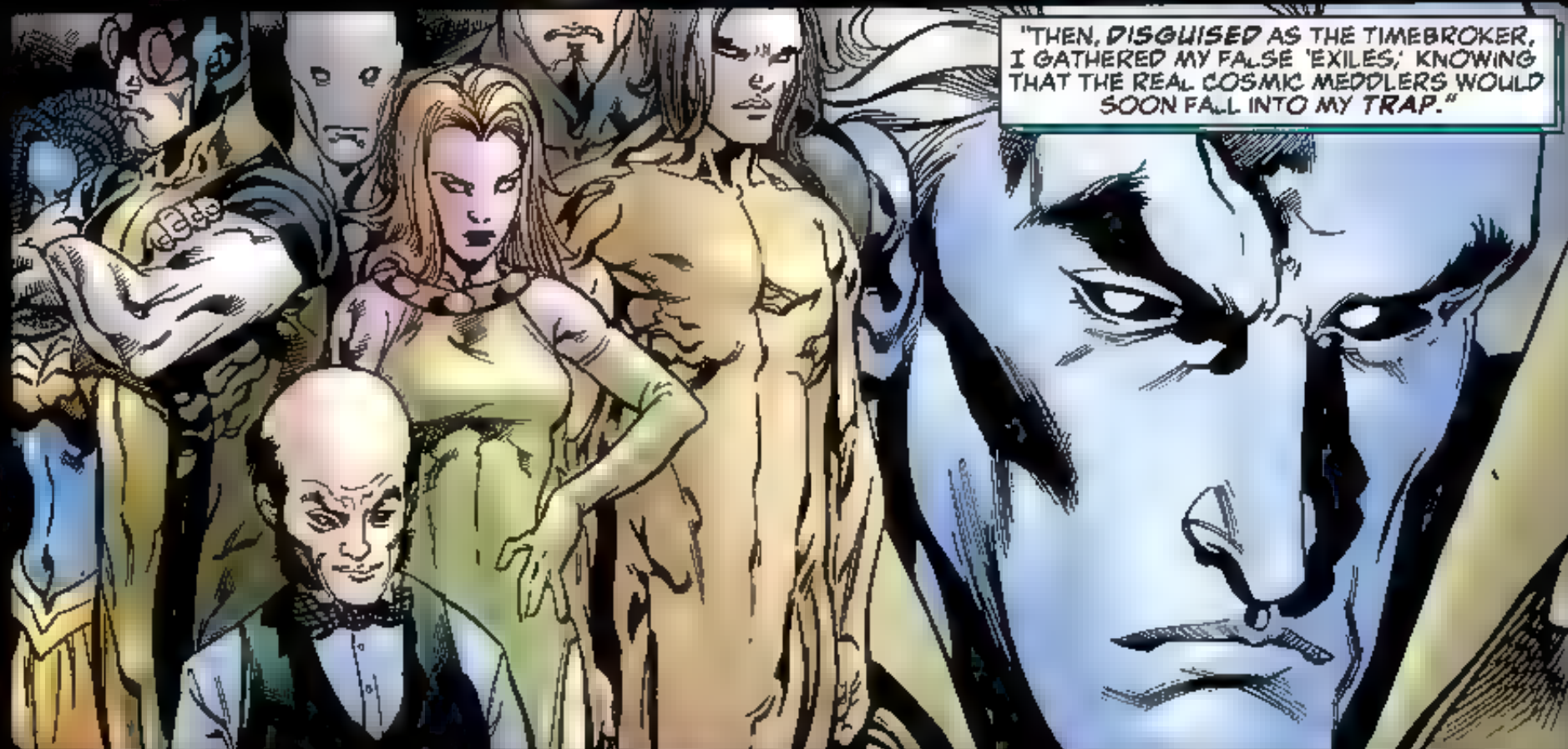


"THANKFULLY, YOU TOLD MAGNETO ALMOST EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR SITUATION-- THE MISSIONS TO SAVE BROKEN REALITIES, THE TIMEBROKER WHO SENT YOU...



ARMED WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE, I CROSSED SCORES OF DIMENSIONS, SEARCHING EARTH AFTER ALTERNATE EARTH...

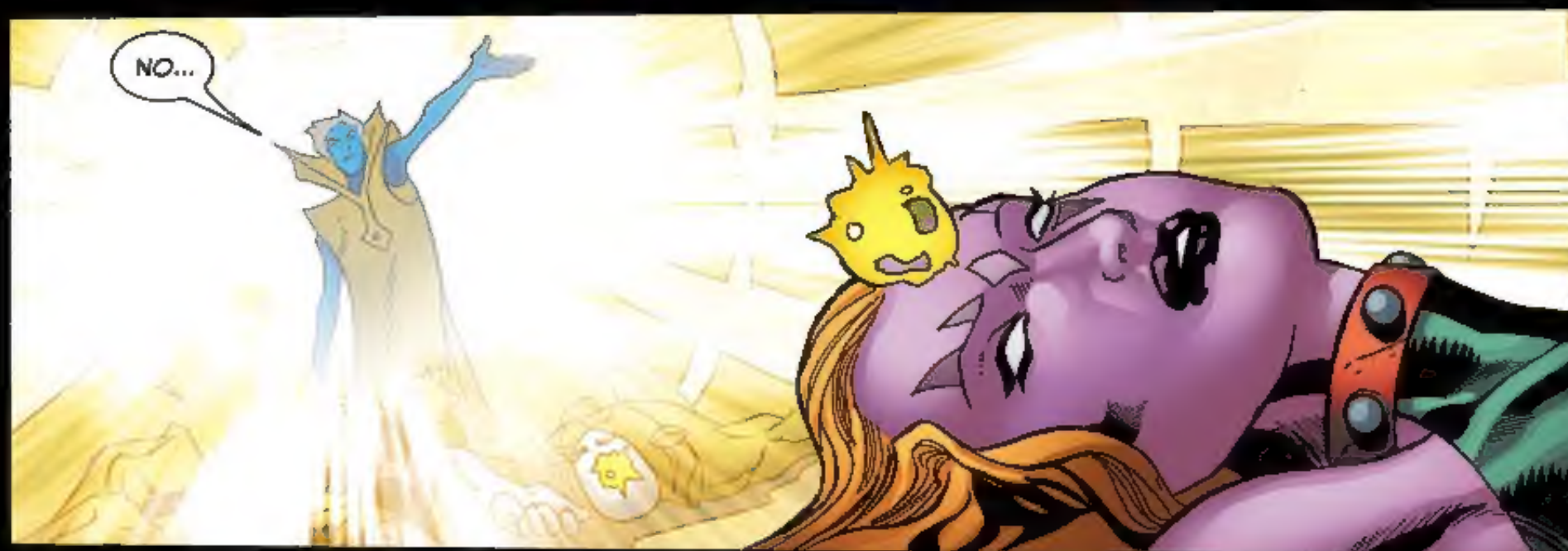
"...UNTIL I FINALLY FOUND ONE WHERE ALL SIX OF YOU EXISTED IN FORMS SUFFICIENTLY SIMILAR TO THE ONES I FIRST ENCOUNTERED



"THEN, DISGUISED AS THE TIMEBROKER, I GATHERED MY FALSE 'EXILES,' KNOWING THAT THE REAL COSMIC MEDDLERS WOULD SOON FALL INTO MY TRAP."





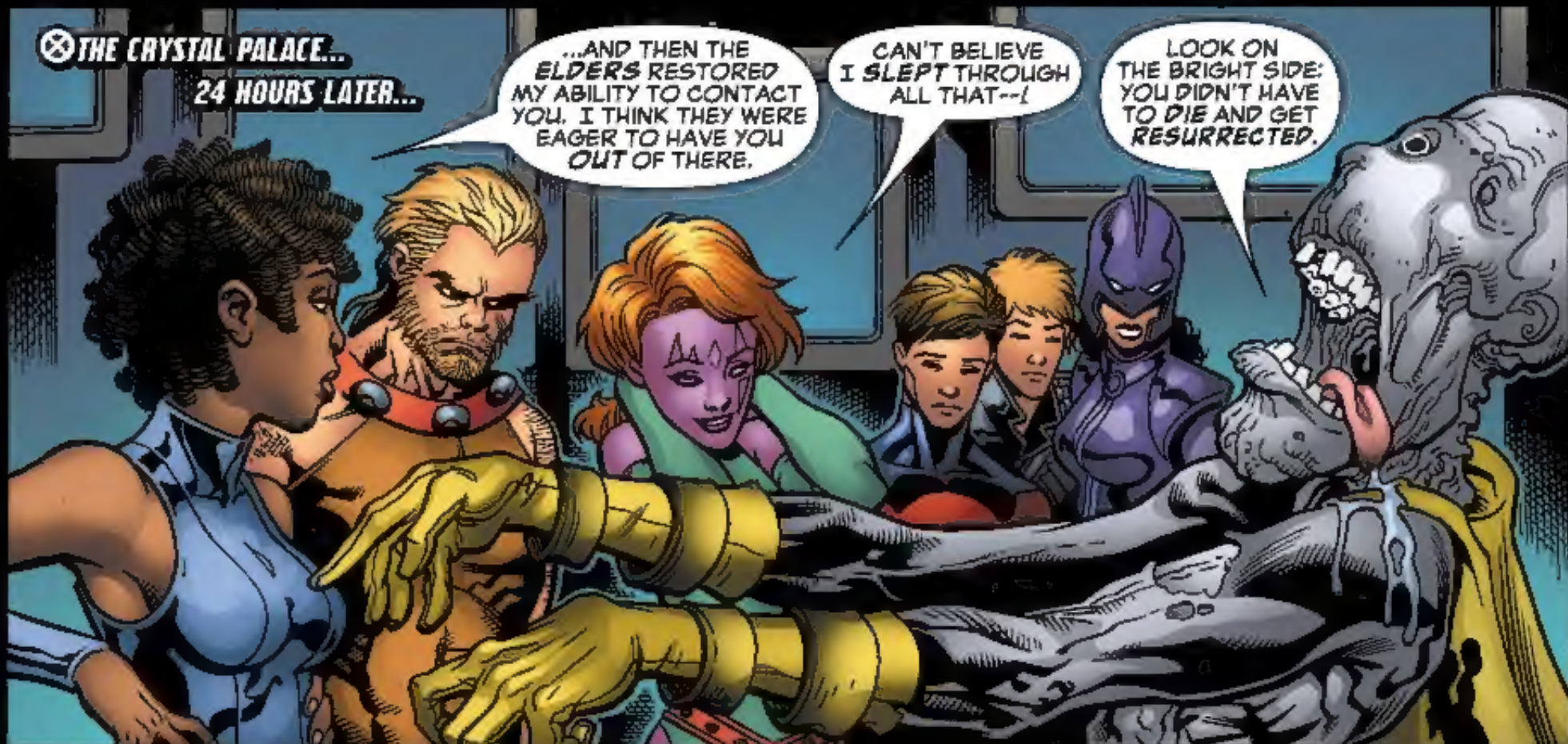


⊗ THE CRYSTAL PALACE...
24 HOURS LATER...

...AND THEN THE
ELDERS RESTORED
MY ABILITY TO CONTACT
YOU. I THINK THEY WERE
EAGER TO HAVE YOU
OUT OF THERE.

CAN'T BELIEVE
I SLEPT THROUGH
ALL THAT--!

LOOK ON
THE BRIGHT SIDE:
YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO DIE AND GET
RESURRECTED.



IMMORTAL
BEINGS WHO
GIVE OR TAKE
LIFE ON A
WHIM...

I'LL NEVER
STOP BEING
AMAZED BY
THE THINGS
WE SEE ON
THIS JOB.

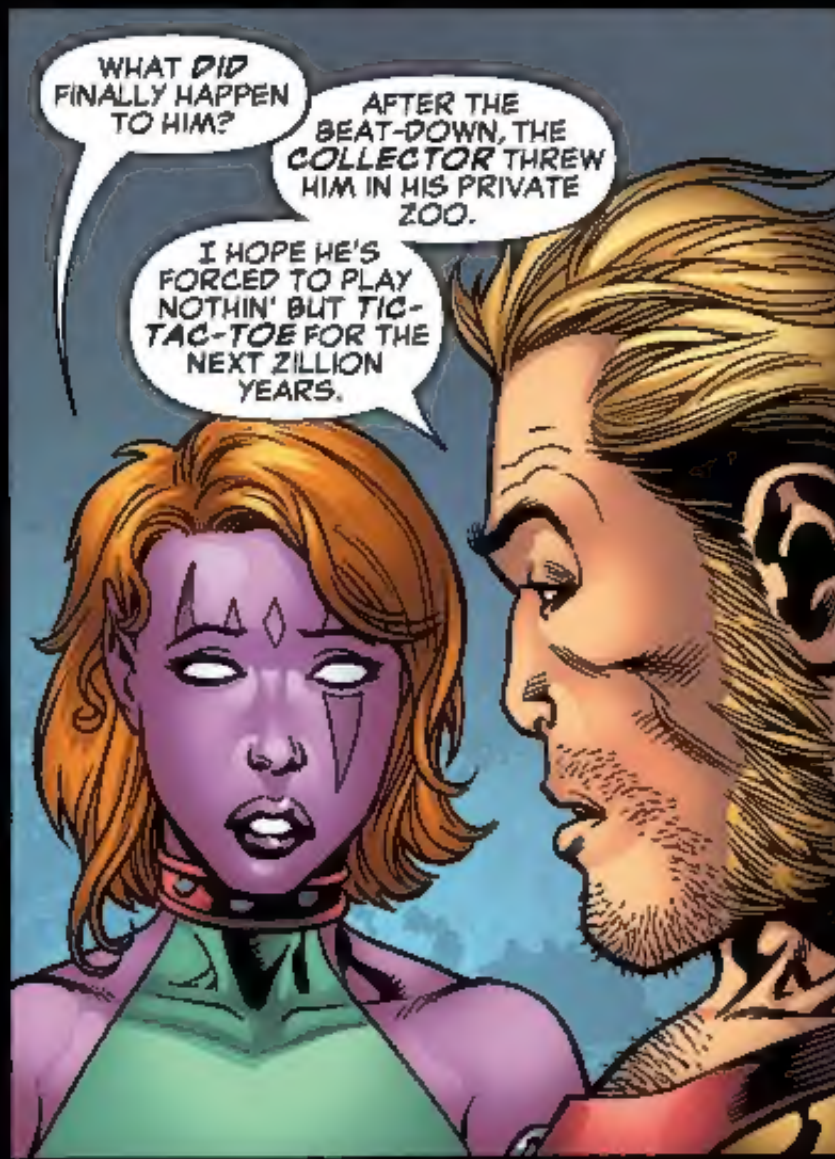
I'D TRADE
THEM ALL
FOR A CHANCE
TO POUND THE
GRANDMASTER
SOME MORE.



WHAT DID
FINALLY HAPPEN
TO HIM?

AFTER THE
BEAT-DOWN, THE
COLLECTOR THREW
HIM IN HIS PRIVATE
ZOO.

I HOPE HE'S
FORCED TO PLAY
NOTHIN' BUT TIC-
TAC-TOE FOR THE
NEXT ZILLION
YEARS.



"ONE THING'S FOR SURE: EARTH
THREE-THREE-SIX-TWO-NINE
IS IN GOOD HANDS NOW."



THE
END